



CUC daily collection now improving; gets \$200K a day. PAGE 3
Kilili is vice chair for Insular Affairs. PAGE 5

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75¢



Full-day sked for MHS, Hopwood eyed by mid-Feb.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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 REPORTER

The Public School System is looking

to revert two schools back to their full-day schedules by mid-February 2019 as the final touches for the temporary classroom structures await

completion.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, noted that preparations for

the relocation of the Hopwood Middle School to its temporary campus next to the Koblerville Elementary School are nearing completion and

a separation between Marianas High School may soon be expected.

"We are at the final phase as of See HOPWOOD on Page 4

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
 The temporary classrooms next to Koblerville Elementary School are nearly completed and will soon be utilized by students of the Hopwood Middle School.

CCC to IPI: What's Plan B?

By JON PEREZ
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 REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has asked Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to come up with a backup plan so that construction of their multi-million dollar Imperial Pacific Resort would no longer encounter delays and other problems. The CNMI Lottery Commission granted IPI an extension to finish the casino-hotel project on Feb. 28, 2021 after it failed to

meet the original deadline of August last year.

CCC vice chair Joseph C. Reyes said they expect the progress of the

ongoing construction project to slow down after hundreds of Filipino construction laborers, who are holding H-2B work visas, are scheduled to be sent home on or before Feb. 9.

The workers will be sent home due to the decision of the U.S. Department of State in removing the Philippines from the list of countries

See CCC on Page 4

Banes: New evidence vs Atalig will only mislead, confuse jurors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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 REPORTER

The case against Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig involving five different trips is already a complicated one and that the U.S. government's

» **2 of 3 trips were medicine conference in Guam, Little League in S. Korea**

intent to introduce evidence related to three additional trips at trial in which

he was not charged with, will only mislead and confuse the jurors later at trial, according to defense counsel David George Banes.

In Atalig's motion in limine, Banes said the U.S. District Court for

See BANES on Page 4

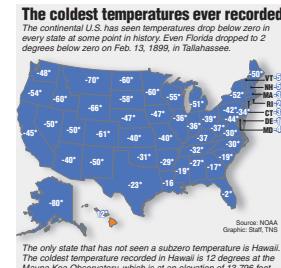
INSIDE



LOCAL

Starting March 30, traditional sailing and boatbuilding non-profit 500 Sails will be forced to vacate the Guma Sakma.

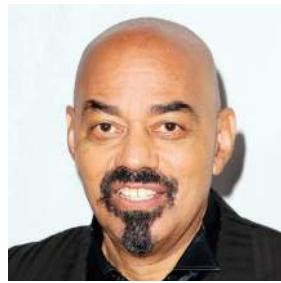
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NATION

The painfully cold weather system that put much of the Midwest into a historic deep freeze was expected to ease Thursday.



LIFE & STYLE

James Ingram, the Grammy-winning singer who launched multiple hits on the R&B and pop charts and earned two Oscar nominations for his songwriting, has died.

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Local

FEMA helps ease landfill impact

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is helping local waste management in order to lessen the impact of the debris brought by Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year. There are still some areas in the islands of Saipan and Tinian where there's still some debris, and the cleanup is expected to end anytime this month.

FEMA Region IX administrator Robert J. Fenton Jr. said that right now all debris and trash left by Yutu go straight to the landfill in Marpi where personnel and other crew painstakingly segregate wastes that can either be burned, compacted, or recycled.

FEMA has also brought in two burners, which arrived last month, to help speed up the disposal of green waste like leaves, tree branches, and wood. Workers also dug in an 8-foot deep pit that is around five feet wide and about 40- to 50-feet long.

"They [workers] just dug the pit and the burners are there. We want to reduce the impact of the landfill and be able to burn as much as wood and green debris as we can. Green and wood waste will be burned while all metals will be compressed, recycled, and sold off-island. Any other waste will be compressed and go to the landfill," said Fenton.

"We're trying to minimize the impact of [all typhoon-]

See FEMA on Page 4



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CUC daily collection now improving; gets \$200K a day

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s billings collection is now improving as it collected an average of \$200,000 per day for the month of January.

CUC chief accountant Rodolfo P. Urbano disclosed that after Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation on Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25, their daily average billings collection was only \$150,000.

Urbano anticipated that their collection will soon reach the pre-Yutu average of \$200,000 to \$250,000 per day.

Urbano said CUC has available funding to buy a generator unit that will serve as a reserve capacity for Rota.

Urbano disclosed CUC's collection when CUC board vice chair Weston Deleon Guerrero inquired during a meeting last week on whether they have the financial capability to purchase a 2-kilowatt power engine for Rota.

The estimate amount of such engine was between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

At last December's CUC board meeting, CUC acting chief financial officer Corina Magofna made a presentation disclosing that from \$10.6 million last September, CUC's power billing collection nosedived to just \$4.2 million last November—a steep 60.47-percent decrease—in the wake of Yutu's devastation.

On water billings collection, Magofna said that last September their collection amounted to \$763,000 and that it dropped to \$461,000 last November—a 39.58-percent decrease.

October water collection was at \$796,000.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said the engine is only about 2 megawatts and may cost only between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Meanwhile, at the same board meeting, Vic Cepeda, a resident of Gualo Rai, complained about the amount of his utility billing for the months of December 2018 to January 2019 that reached \$898 when he was in fact off-island during that period.

Cepeda shared the bad customer service he allegedly experienced with CUC's complaints and dispute section.

Cepeda said he left Saipan last Oct. 12 or before Yutu for the U.S. mainland and went back only last week.

He said he was surprised to see his billing reached \$898.

He said he spent the whole day at CUC's complaints and dispute section, but his name was never called.

Cepeda said CUC's payment section has been doing an excellent job, but the dispute section is not and that the management should do

something about it.

He said his billing for water was \$42.92 and \$17.14 for sewer for August to September.

He said in September to October his water was \$32.96 and \$14.30 for sewer.

For October to November, his water was \$12.88 and \$10.50 for sewer.

He said for November to December his water was \$16.33 and \$10.92 for sewer.

Cepeda said for December to January, his water reached \$578.76 and \$250.92 for sewer.

Cepeda said he wants to see how CUC crew investigate the matter at his house because it was not the first time this happened to his billings.

Cepeda said he will be glad to pay, but just wants to know how CUC made such computation.

CUC chair Miranda Manglona assured Cepeda that they will look into his complaint and that his recommendation will be taken into consideration.

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CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho, in an interview, said he really appreciates Cepeda's recommendation and that he already asked the chief of administration to look into it and to give him a recommendation as soon as possible to ensure that they can make the necessary adjustments.

"The customer is always right. I agree with him and I totally appreciate the fact that he was here. These are the things that we need to know. These are the things that we as utility must correct immediately," Camacho said.

Camacho said it is their responsibility to provide and not waste any of the

customers' time and that they must be more effective, more efficient.

"Although I think we got a good group of people, but I think our system needs to be reviewed and maybe possibly determined or reviewed for determination whether we need to make necessary adjustments," he said.

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CCC**From Page 1**

that are qualified for the said visa program.

IPI has a total of 844 H-2B laborers that are currently working at the casino-hotel construction site, but it will be drastically reduced by almost half due to Filipinos no longer eligible for the said works visa and IPI already arranging their flights back to the Philippines.

The ban took effect on January 2019 and will end on Jan. 18 next year. The Dominican Republic and Ethiopia join the Philippines as countries removed from the H-2B program due to concerns on potential for abuse, overstay rates, fraud, human trafficking concerns, and other forms of non-compliance. The DHS' decision took effect on Jan. 19, 2019 and ends on Jan. 18, 2020.

BANES**From Page 1**

the NMI should preclude the U.S. government from introducing at trial evidence related to the three additional trips.

Limine refers to a motion filed before the start of a trial requesting that the judge rule that certain evidence may, or may not, be introduced to the jury in a trial.

"This is already a complicated case involving five different trips with thousands of pages of discovery that will most certainly require numerous witnesses and exhibits at trial," said Banes, who was appointed by the court Wednesday as counsel for Atalig.

The lawyer said the three additional trips that the U.S. government intends to introduce at trial have nothing to do with the five trips charged.

Banes said even if they have some relevance, their probative value is outweighed by prejudice.

"There is no good reason to complicate this case even more by having a full-blown trial within a trial now and running the risk of misleading and confusing the jury later at trial," he pointed out.

The defense lawyer said in this case, the prosecution essentially accuses Atalig and his co-defendant, Evelyn M. Atalig, of defrauding the CNMI government by going on five trips on government money.

Banes said less than two months from the scheduled trial date, the prosecution notified him that it intended to introduce at trial under Rule 404(b), evidence relating to three additional trips.

Banes said the prosecution claimed there was a "pattern" of using government money

Reyes, in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said IPI management now needs to reassess their project and come up with a potential backup plan to lessen the impact of the recent decision made by the U.S. State Department. "Now that's the million-dollar question. Where are they going to hire the workers that would replace the ones from the Philippines?"

"We [CCC] raised this concern and asked them what would be their plan of moving forward. They said that they would report back to us with a more concrete plan. The H-2B visa issue is a big concern for all of us, not only IPI but also for other developers and the entire CNMI."

The Philippines, because of its proximity to the CNMI and Guam, have been a source of skilled workers for the Marianas. Laborers from China and

Chinese-Taipei, who entered the CNMI legally, continue to work at the construction site where Phase 1 (resort hotel) and Phase 2 (tower hotel) are in progress and have an estimated date of completion on Dec. 31 this year.

A separate team of 19 personnel from an IPI subcontractor is working to install the Dragon chandelier, composed of 11 from USA Fanter and eight technicians. Other nearby Asian countries like Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia could also be a source of construction workers for the casino-resort developer.

He added that the Philippines being removed from the H-2B visa program would cause problems to other construction projects. "The [H-2B

visa] issue might hamper some construction projects with IPI to experience some setbacks. This is a big concern for us since we're still in recovery

for personal trips.

He said the prosecution produced more than 600 pages in discovery related to two of those three trips, and indicated more might be coming for the third one.

Banes said none of the three trips is charged either in this federal case or Atalig's criminal case pending in the Superior Court.

Banes said the only way the prosecution can use to link the three additional trips to the charges in this case is to argue Atalig has a propensity of defrauding the CNMI government.

The lawyer said if the prosecution contests this motion, just to resolve it will require a full-blown trial within a trial to decide whether Atalig did anything wrong regarding the three additional trips.

He said this does not mean that Atalig himself or Evelyn Atalig should be precluded from introducing evidence related to trips not charged in the superseding indictment.

Banes said Rule 404(b) permits prior act evidence to be offered to show certain non-propensity purposes, but only if the U.S. government meets a four-part test.

Banes said even if the four-part test is met, prior act evidence is inadmissible if its potential prejudicial effect outweighs its probative value.

He said there is insufficient evidence to prove that, regarding the three additional trips, Atalig defrauded the CNMI government.

Banes said the U.S. government has not included those three trips in the alleged scheme in the superseding indictment.

He said the U.S. govern-

ment has produced so far discovery materials related to only two of the three additional trips.

He said one was the trip to Guam where the Chamorro medicine conference was held and the second was the South Korea trip where the Little League District Tournament took place.

Banes said those discovery materials do not show Atalig defrauded the CNMI government.

Banes said regarding the trip to Guam, the discovery materials suggest that Atalig, while on Guam, did not attend all the days of the Chamorro medicine conference, but went to a meeting with the Guam Mayors' Council and visited different mayors on Guam.

Banes said there is no evidence showing the meeting or the visits were not done in the interest of the CNMI government nor is there any evidence showing Atalig had the intent to defraud the CNMI government.

In fact, the lawyer said, the discovery materials show that the trip was investigated by the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, but Atalig is not charged in this criminal case pending in the Superior Court for this Guam trip.

As to the South Korea trip, Banes said the discovery materials show that the CNMI Office of Public Auditor investigated the use of funds given to the Little League Association and concluded that no violation of law or regulation occurred.

Banes said Atalig is not charged in his criminal case pending in the Superior Court for this South Korea trip.

after a devastating typhoon."

"Skilled laborers in construction are badly needed because we have limited workforce here on the island. It is not only the IPI construction project that is going to be affected. The [H-2B] issue is a setback to us after the progress that we've gained," said Reyes.

Reyes said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) had already raised these issues. "We're hoping the U.S. Congress act on it as soon as possible. The governor and Kilili are united in this issue."

"Now that [IPI chief executive officer] Mark Brown is back at the helm, management must now reassess or reevaluate the situation. This requires a business decision."

Brown, in last Wednesday's CCC board meeting, again reiterated their commitment in completing the project but they are now facing a major

setback. "We need to finish this building... I beg the community, we're all in this together. We have a half-built building that we need to get completed."

"We now have hundreds of Filipino construction workers that have to go home. We didn't make that rule. It just so happened and now we have to scramble. Now, where will our other workers come from?"

Workers update

The Philippine Honorary Consul Office in the CNMI said that IPI officials had already met with the workers and informed them that some will get paid today while they continue to compute the final salaries of the others. IPI management is

also trying to book their flights back to the Philippines with some of the workers scheduled to leave tomorrow.

The PHCO said that IPI could not accommodate all the workers at once and they will be doing it in batches since they are more than 100.

Ian Piel, one of the workers waiting to be sent back home, informed *Saipan Tribune* that some of his compatriots that were told to stop work had already received their salaries from the previous pay period and are now just waiting for their plane tickets back to the Philippines.

He said that he is waiting for his turn to receive his salary, plane ticket, and, if any, other monetary compensation from IPI.

HOPWOOD**From Page 1**

Jan. 26, 2019...All the structures should be up today [Jan. 29, 2019]. Right now, the Army Corps of Engineers is just making sure all the final touches are in place," he said, referring to the internet connection, electrical systems, and more.

Currently, Hopwood classes are conducted in the morning at the MHS campus, forcing both schools to operate on a half-day schedule. At the Koblerville site, 42 temporary classroom structures were set up to accommodate all the students of Hopwood since Super Typhoon Yutu late October 2018 destroyed nearly the whole Hopwood campus in Chalan Piao.

"[The] Federal Emergency Management Agency was also able to work with us in getting some collateral equipment," said Muña, adding that even the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had a helping hand in the project.

"We have already started to inform our principals and teachers that we are looking

at Feb. 9, 2019," Muña added, noting that the latest the relocation would start is mid-February 2019.

He added that once Hopwood relocates, both MHS and Hopwood would revert back to full-day schedules.

Other schools such as the William S. Reyes Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, Oleai Elementary School, and the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School are also undergoing repairs to their facilities, but damage has not been as bad as Hopwood.

PSS notes that they continue to work with FEMA and the Torres administration for additional structures to serve as temporary structures while repairs on the main facility go on.

FEMA previously told *Saipan Tribune* that they aim to erect typhoon-resistant structures, similar to the ones set up for Hopwood, which can withstand over 100mph winds.

"We are grateful for that support and...we are also working on the temporary structures for WSR as well as FMS," said Muña.

FEMA**From Page 2**

related] debris on the landfill. Rather than having 300,000 to 500,000 cubic yards of material impacting the landfill and shorten its life expectancy, if we go ahead and burn 200,000 cubic meters of green waste or recycle 100,000 of metal, then what we have is very minimal impact on the landfill."

"And that's what we're trying to do, impact the landfill as little as possible the same in Tinian. What we want to do is to stabilize things and mitigate the problem, but we also want to have a long term and build resiliency into what we're doing here on Saipan and Tinian as far as the landfill. Recycle the metals and by [February] most of the debris is gone,"

added Fenton.

He also advised private home or land owners to be the ones to take care in disposing their debris and other waste brought by Yutu. They can ask for the help of FEMA and other agencies tasked to collect debris and do cleanup.

"I think, it would be a lot of help if we ask for the people to put their debris to their right of way and not just leave it out there. If they can, separate the debris like metals and green wastes, since it makes it easier for the crew to pick it up," said Fenton.

"Obviously, we don't remove debris from private property. It is the individual's responsibility; if we're going to do this collectively, the individual should move it to their right of way so we can then help remove it from them."

Kilili is vice chair for Insular Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) was selected Tuesday to serve as the vice chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee with specific responsibility for Insular Affairs. Insular issues were previously delegated to a subcommittee, but the new Democratic majority has decided policy regarding the Marianas and other insular areas will now be managed by the full committee with Sablan chairing.

In his new position, Sablan has already scheduled a hearing on a recent Trump administration decision ending humanitarian parole for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other long-time Marianas residents. The hearing, planned for Feb. 27, will also focus on the decision to take the Philippines off the list of countries that can send H visa workers to the United States. Continuation of parole for tourists is another issue on the agenda.

Rules of the Democratic Caucus prevent one person from chairing more than one committee; and Sablan is already the chair of the Subcommittee on Early, Elementary, and Secondary Education. He can serve as a vice chair and a chair, however; and Sablan's 10 years of seniority give him the opportunity to do both.

"I want to thank Chair Raúl Grijalva for recognizing that insular issues need to be given special prominence in the work of the Natural Resources Committee," Sablan said, "and for giving me the responsibility to manage what Congress does for our island areas. I intend to take full advantage of the ability I will now have to make sure our islands are more than just a second thought in national policy."

Sablan will also serve on the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. WOW has jurisdiction over Sablan's recently introduced Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2019. (PR)

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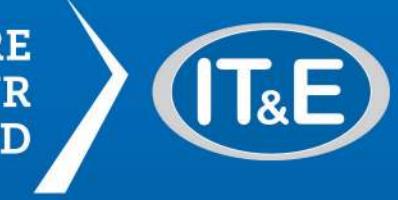
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'Alternative typhoon-resistant roofing lasts decades'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A security officer from one of the island's local training and certification institutions recommends using different materials to construct the roofing of the houses on Saipan in

order to achieve a typhoon-resistant roofing that reportedly lasts decades.

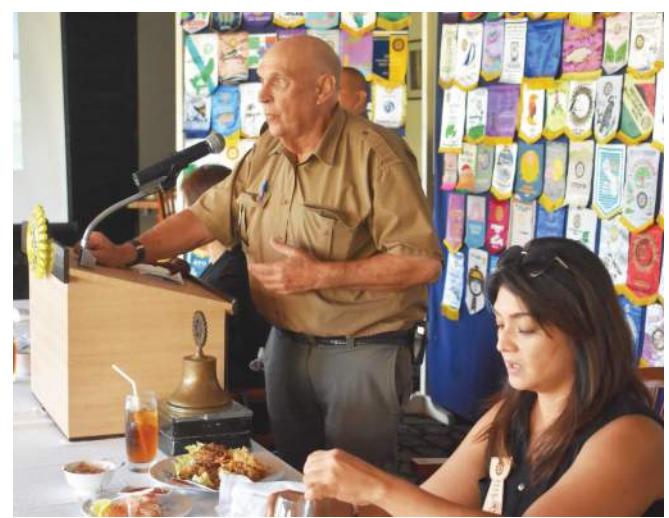
Northern Marianas Trades Institute security officer Rip Stephanson told the Rotary Club of Saipan last Tuesday that he highly recommends the usage of at least 24-gauge

steel as an alternative to the common tin on wood recipe that is more popular.

"This way, you have something that lasts 30-50 years and [is able to] withstand any 200mph plus typhoon," he said. Although he claims that the alternative method of

building roofs with a higher gauge steel as an alternative to tin may seem more expensive, Stephanson noted that the price remains the same as with tin on wood but with more durability.

"...The price is the same for something that is good



ERWIN ENCINARES

Northern Marianas Trades Institute security officer Rip Stephanson delivers his presentation on typhoon-resistant alternative materials for roofing durability to the Rotary Club of Saipan Tuesday.

for 100mph and maybe [only] good for five years because wood deteriorates over time," he said.

During his presentation to the Rotary Club, he told the members that during his computations of a standard roofing and his alternative roofing, it cost about roughly \$4 per square foot for the materials.

"I constructed a sustainable roof that could probably last about 50 years by using 12-gauge C channel... 22-gauge roofing, and it turns out the cost of the materials is the same—\$4 a square foot," he said.

"Wood is expensive and is not long lasting in this environment, so I guess it begs the question, what...are the people in the community do-

ing about this? Because what I see is people are putting things back together in exactly the same way," he continued.

In an interview Stephanson believes educating the community in materials that are more durable and more resistant to typhoons are a necessity, especially in the CNMI, where it is typhoon-prone.

"It's just a matter of education. You just have to educate the hardware[s] here to have the correct materials on hand. Most of the materials are here, you just have to know where to look around [for them] to put it together, and people are starting to get the message—if you keep doing the same thing over and over expecting different results, it's not going to happen," he said.

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Kilili: Dems push pay raise for federal workers

WASHINGTON, D.C.— After many federal workers endured a 35-day shutdown without pay, the House voted yesterday to raise federal wages by 2.6 percent. This is the same raise that members of the military are already receiving for 2019 and reverses President Donald Trump's Executive Order freezing pay for civilian federal workers. The Senate must now act on the Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) is a cosponsor of the Act and presided over much of the debate on the bill in the House.

"All of us who watched TSA inspectors and CBP agents dutifully going to work without pay to keep the airport open or know federal employees stuck at home throughout the long shutdown, have a new respect and appreciation for these federal workers and the jobs they do," Sablan said.

"Adding insult to injury the President cancelled the across-the-board 2.1-percent pay increase that was supposed to take effect this month," Sablan said.

The President also cancelled the annual increase in locality pay for workers who live in more expensive areas

of the country. Trump called the increases "inappropriate."

The Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019 cancels the President's action and provides the 2.6-percent salary increase to all federal employees, not just those hurt by the shutdown. (PR)

LDS Charities donates over \$1M to Red Cross



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Larry Lee, NMI board member; Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan); Michael Kern, FEMA VAL; J.D. Tenorio, Red Cross Disaster Program manager; Rep. Roman Benavente (R-Saipan); Jean Sablan, NMI Red Cross board member; Sen. Sixto Igosmar (R-Saipan); Valrick Welch, Saipan ward bishop; John Hirsh, NMI-Red Cross executive director; Bob Coldeen, NMI Red Cross board member; Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios; elder Kazuhiko Yamashita, Asia North Area Presidency; elder Bill Davis, Area Seventy; Diego Sablan, Barrigada Guam Stake Presidency; Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, NMI Red Cross board chairwoman; Saipan Mayor David Apatang; Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan); Joe Flores, Rep. Joe Itibus (R-Saipan), Rep. L.J. Castro (R-Saipan); Rep. Donald Manglona (R-Rota), and Rep. Larry Guerrero (R-Saipan).

LDS Charities has donated more than \$1 million to the Red Cross in disaster relief after Typhoon Yutu slammed into the islands of Saipan and Tinian on Oct. 25, 2018, the strongest tropical cyclone on record to ever hit the area.

"We are so grateful to be able to partner with the American Red Cross office in Saipan to help those in need following this disaster," said elder William H. Davis, an Area Seventy. "We are grateful to help

those who were affected by this devastating storm."

Off-island church leaders met with Red Cross officials on Saipan last Jan. 24 to discuss the use of the donated items to support the residents following the super typhoon. The church provided \$10,000 in cash to cover fuel and supplies for volunteers immediately following the storm. In December, \$1 million was donated to support relief supplies and the deployment of emergency personnel. This

large donation is made possible through many small donations from Church members.

"Having the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as our strategic partner has truly made our response work possible" said John Hirsh of the NMI Red Cross Chapter. The church has a long history of helping less fortunate, vulnerable populations recover from disasters. "Through this donation, LDS Charities has again shown their innate de-

sire to provide help when and where it's needed the most. The church's donation to the Red Cross has directly improved the lives of thousands of families here in the CNMI as they continue to recover from this catastrophic storm" said Hirsh.

In the immediate wake of the storm, the American Red Cross scaled up to support families and provided essential relief supplies, such as tarps, drinking water, lanterns, mosquito netting, and meals. Finan-

cial support was also provided to families whose homes were either destroyed or had major damage. Part of the mission of LDS Charities is to relieve suffering following natural disasters, civil unrest or famine around the world. When local resources are strained or nonexistent, the church provides short-term, life-sustaining resources such as food, water, shelter and clothing, as well as medical, and school and hygiene supplies. (PR)

Yutu relief goods donated to WSR

Yaong Corp. and FoodLinx, in collaboration with Hoopaholics670, donated over 400 cases of relief goods to William S. Reyes Elementary School to help those that are still in need. Over 150 out of the over 300 students from WSR have lost their

homes while many still need assistance to help get their families back to normalcy.

Yaong Corp., FoodLinx, and Hoopaholics670 would like to thank Matson Ship-

ping Company and those that wish to remain anonymous for making the donation possible.

Naomi Nishimura, WSR school principal, thanked Ya-



Yaong Corp. and FoodLinx, and Hoopaholics670 donated 400 cases of relief goods to William S. Reyes Elementary School students.



Hoopaholics670's James Lee and Walter Mendez help unload relief goods.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Save the Guma Sakman

500 Sails just received word from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources that starting March 30, the traditional sailing and boatbuilding non-profit will be forced to vacate the Guma Sakman, where it teaches traditional sailing, offers free swim lessons to the community, and stores *Neni*, its first traditional Chamorro canoe.

While 500 Sails deeply respects and appreciates DLNR and its past support of 500 Sails, it humbly requests the CNMI community's support in its efforts to remain based in the Guma Sakman, which has a central and irreplaceable location on the beach in Civic Center alongside other traditional maritime activities like the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Seafaring Traditions Program and the Northern Marianas Paddle Sports Federation. It is also conveniently located near other community hubs like Marianas High School, where the majority of 500 Sails' Gamsun Project certified lifeguards attend school.

"We treasure the Guma Sakman because of the way it allows us to serve the CNMI and collaborate with other community servants and cultural practitioners," said 500

Sails co-founder and board president Emma Perez. "In addition to our swimming and sailing programs, we open our building for other organizations' events, including indigenous dance classes, the agricultural fair, and the Indigenous Cultural Expo, among many others. We hope to continue to do so."

In the last year, 500 Sails has participated in over 50 cultural events, partnering with 22 local businesses and organizations in the process.

Since receiving its Administration for Native Americans grant in October 2016, it has hosted 468 free swim classes, amounting to a total of 5,489 free student learning hours. Volunteers have spent over 750 hours constructing traditional Chamorro canoes, and there are currently four canoes being built in the 500 Sails boatyard not including 500 Sails' newest canoe, *Richard Seman*, which is slated to hit the water in weeks.

"We are at a critical time for our sailing and swimming pro-

gram," added Perez. "We just started our free island-wide youth swim program, which involved getting ten high school lifeguards certified with the goal of making this a healthy swimming community and making it possible for the lifeguards to obtain part-time employment at hotels. And as far as the canoe building, we currently have six canoes in the boatyard that would be making their way into the water in the next few months. And our train-the-trainers traditional sailing program is held in the Guma Sakman."

"Lastly, although my heart

is in the cultural revival aspect of our work, what we do also lends itself to labor workforce development through training lifeguards, sailors, and boatbuilders. We hope to train fishermen in the future. In addition, we are changing the face of the lagoon by beginning to fill it with colorful sails, enhancing the CNMI as a tourist destination."

"Our programs aim to revive the culture and improve the health of our community," said 500 Sails co-founder and executive director Pete Perez. "We've been working for years to do this. We don't make money, rather we bring a lot of money into the community through grants and donations."

"We took a flooded, badly damaged building that was an eyesore for many years and we turned it into a productive, supportive facility that is heavily used and loved by the public."

"And frankly, we used up all of our savings to make those buildings functional after Soudelor," he added.

"If we lose the Guma Sakman, I really don't know how we're going to recover. It would be hard. Very, very hard. And it's hard enough dealing with Mother Nature—what with all these recent typhoons."

"We need help."

Without its location in the Guma Sakman, 500 Sails leadership is unsure how or if it can offer the swimming and sailing services that has made available in the past years. If you, your family, or your friends have benefited from 500 Sails' services, you can show your support by signing the "Save the Guma Sakman" change.org petition requesting that the CNMI government extend 500 Sails' stay in the Guma Sakman or by contacting your legislators to let your concerns be heard. (PR)



500 Sails members pose in front of the Guma Sakman on the beach at the Civic Center in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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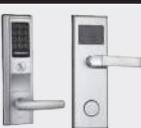
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Pacific Historic Parks donates bags and supplies to Saipan Southern High School students.

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Better Together

Pacific Historic Parks donates bags and supplies to Francisco Mendiola Sablan Elementary School students.



Pacific Historic Parks donates bags and supplies to Garapan Elementary School students.

After devastating storms hit the CNMI, leaving a path of destruction, Pacific Historic Parks reached out to see how they could help students in the CNMI.

Over 2,000 backpacks, water bottles and pencil cases were purchased and sent to the CNMI from Pacific Historic Parks in Hawaii to help students who are in need of these supplies. This week, representatives from Pacific Historic Parks are delivering the supplies to all schools in the CNMI Public School System.

Pacific Historic Parks has served as the National Park Service non-profit cooperat-

ing association and partner in the islands of Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan for over 25 years. The mission of Pacific Historic Parks is to support the National Park Service through education and interpretive programs, research, preservation, restoration and fund development.

Over the years, various education programs at American Memorial Park were made possible through funding from Pacific Historic Parks. These include educational and community programs at the park, field trips and outreach to schools throughout the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. (PR)

Art-a-thon Exhibition opens at UOG's Isla Center for the Arts

The Isla Center for the Arts at the University of Guam is proud to announce the opening of the 21st Annual Art-a-thon Exhibition. The exhibit will run from Jan. 31 to March 1 and features selected works of art created by students who participated in the 2018–2019 Isla Art-a-thon, a competition to promote the involvement of students in the arts and to raise funds for the center and for art programs in the participating schools.

This year's exhibit includes more than 65 works selected from more than 950 students from 24 schools who participated in the Art-a-thon. Students from elementary, middle, and high schools produced their works using a variety of media, including crayon, pastels, colored pencils, ink, graphite, collage, mixed media, watercolors, and acrylics.

The competition is steadily raising more funds each year, raising more than \$34,400 this year, up from \$32,000 and \$29,000 the previous two years. Forty percent of the funds, or about \$13,790, will be returned to the participating schools to purchase art-related materials for the students. Another 40 percent goes to programming at the Isla Center for the Arts, and 20 percent goes toward prizes for the students.

The Isla Center for the Arts is located on the University of Guam campus in House #15 of the Dean's Circle. The exhibit will be open from 10am to 5pm Mondays-Fridays, and from 10am to 2pm on Saturdays until March 1. It is open to the public and free of charge, but donations are appreciated.

The project is supported in part by the University of Guam. Corporate sponsors include Fish Eye Marine Park and Matson Foundation.

Isla Center for the Arts was established in 1980 and formally merged with the University of Guam in 1994.

16 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged 16 Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are Paupau Beach, San Roque School, Plumeria Hotel, Aqua Resort Hotel, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, San Jose Beach, Civic Center Beach, Grand Hotel, Sugar Dock, CK#2 Drain, CK Dist #4 Laly Beach, Hopwood School Beach, San Antonio Beach, and PIC Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)



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Its initial purpose was to provide visual art programs that

were not otherwise available on Guam. It has since been

serving as a venue for exhibition presentation, outreach, and resource collection development. (PR)



The Isla Center art gallery.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Isla Center for the Arts at the University of Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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IN SPEECH AND DEBATE COMPETITIONS

GCA K-12 Eagles win several awards

Grace Christian Academy's Kinder to 12th grade Eagles—17 Primary Grades Forensic Conference, four

National Junior Speech and Debate Association, and six National Speech and Debate Association competitors—

won several awards in January, the last monthly qualifying competition for all grade level categories held in differ-



Grace Christian Academy January 2019 NJSDA (6th-8th grade) winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Grace Christian Academy January 2019 PGFC winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ent schools in Saipan. Some won in two or all events and most of them won at least one event that they joined. These competitions

encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in reading, public speaking, debate, and interpretations.

Jonathan Rosh Vivero, 2nd Place
Mirielle Isla Badal, 4th Place
Breanna May Lopez, 5th Place

Humorous Interpretation A

Hans Gabrielle Ordas, 1st Place
Hannah Gabaldon, 4th Place
Anne Gabrielle Arriola, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking A

Anne Gabrielle Arriola, 1st Place
Jonathan Rosh Vivero, 2nd Place
Mirielle Isla Badal, 3rd Place
Mariska Badal, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking

Hans Gabrielle Ordas, 1st Place

Readers Forum Masters A

Hannah Gabaldon, 3rd Place

Readers Forum Masters B

Mariska Badal, 2nd Place

Breanna May Lopez, 3rd Place

3-5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation A

Akira Ito, 3rd Place
Arielle Mae Matutino, 5th Place

Humorous Interpretation A

Misako Ota, 3rd Place

Readers Forum Masters A

Llyana Jairah Manalang, 3rd Place
Lucas Zeyu Yuan, 4th Place

See GCA on Next Page



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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 31, 2019

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) regarding the proposed rehabilitation and expansion of the Kagman Community Center. The project is located in Kagman, Saipan and will be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). More information about the project, including the proposed scope of work, can be accessed via the DCRM website at <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/NMHC-Req-for-Determination-of-Effect-Kagman-Community-Center 7JAN2019.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for seven (7) days, starting on January 31, 2019 and ending on February 8, 2019, in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION As of February 01, 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Zone D Development	01/07/2019 SS-2019-X-011	Land clearing	Chalan Piao, Saipan	Land clearing	Approved 01/22/2019*
2. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	01/08/2019 SSm-2019-X-012	Bubble Color Run	Garapan, Saipan	Other	Approved* 01/17/2019
3. Saipan Crew Boats, Inc.	01/30/2019 SPI-2019-X-013	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Drydock	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

The GCA family would like to thank especially the GCA competitors for doing the best they can in accomplishing their goals and to all the parents, volunteer judges, and coaches for their support and all the help they have given in these competitions. "With all of our victories, I hope us Eagles can be motivated to do our utmost best in next month's competitions, she added."

The winners posed for a souvenir photo inside the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library at Navy Hill school campus, Saipan. Below is the complete list of winners.

PGFC

K-2 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation A
Qihan Wang, 1st Place

Readers Forum Masters A

Llyana Jairah Manalang, 3rd Place
Lucas Zeyu Yuan, 4th Place

GCA*From Page 12***Readers Forum Masters A**Nestor Ablog, 3rd Place**Impromptu Speaking A**Arielle Mae Matutino, 2nd Place**Impromptu Speaking B**Nestor Ablog, 3rd Place**Duo Interpretation A**Seungwon Ashley Han, 4th PlaceSeungwon Alvin Han, 4th Place

SDA School recognizes top students

The Seventh Day Adventist School released its Principal's List and Honor Roll for the 2nd quarter of School Year 2018-2019. Below are the lists.

Principal's List

DoHyun Lee
Scarlett Loken
Kijoon Park
Mechaet Masaki Rechucher
Eugene Zhao
Taiga Nama-Scoggins
Danbi Yu
Pete Phair
Gwanhun Son
Gwanpil Son
Elizabeth Tom
Bomee Park
Marielle Lopez

Honor Roll

Castiel Albert
Jarell Herman
Richard Li
John Sanchez
Cyrene Sembrano
Mason Seo
Roman Tudela
Faith Arriola
Marley Camacho
Bentley Castro
Orica George
Maria Guerrero
Jason Christopher Sablan
Nicole Williams
Ian Ahn
Kelly Ahn
Jessica An
Kurt Diesta
Melinda Han
Elin Kim
Cole Kirschenheiter
Samantha Latag
Aubrey White
Bowei Wu
Ellie Cho
D'Artagnan Enerio
Montrey Germance
Sarah Jin
Gabriella Murphy
SeongHu Park
Tristan Sablan
Kyle Diesta
Jenna Qiu
Kimberly Buan
Michelle Chen
Arman Kaito Rechucher
Ashley Sablan
Emily Wister
Leona Castro
Anniegail Manuel
Sion Park
Kaya Rasa (PR)

Choral Speaking A

Misako Ota, 4th Place
Rooney Sumin Gil, 4th Place
Seungwon Ashley Han, 4th Place
Seungwon Alvin Han, 4th Place

PGFC Coach/Coordinator,
Mrs. Esther Manzano

Judges: Marilyn Aldan, Alyssa Jean Pantaleon, Edriel Javier, Arvin Dayao, Martin Pangilinan, Claude Aquino, Alice Kim, Melody Woo, Hanako Benitez

NJSDA (6TH-8TH GRADE)

Extemporaneous Speech
Anthony Jacob DLG Camacho, 1st Place
Gabriel Angelo Retardo, 2nd Place

DeclamationJennifer Woo, 3rd Place**Dramatic Interpretation**Jennifer Woo, 5th Place**Impromptu Speech A**

Anthony Jacob DLG Camacho, 3rd Place
Gabriel Angelo Retardo, 4th Place

Impromptu Speech BMatthew Ernest, 4th Place

Grace Christian Academy January 2019 NJSDA (9th-12th) winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prose Reading AGabriel Angelo Retardo, 3rd Place**Prose Reading Masters A**Matthew Ernest, 3rd Place**Prose Reading Masters B**Jennifer Woo, 1st Place**Poetry Reading Masters A**Matthew Ernest, 4th Place**NSDA (9TH-12TH GRADE)**

Dramatic Interpretation A
Jonathan Woong Soo Lee, 4th Place

Original Oratory B
Ao Feng Louis Zheng, 2nd Place

United States Extemporaneous Speech
Arvin Dayao, 1st Place

Commentary

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st Place
James Alexander Keaton, 2nd Place

Arvin Dayao, 3rd Place

Lanz Jabez Victoria, 4th Place

Martin Angelo Pangilinan, 5th Place

James Alexander Keaton, 3rd Place

Martin Angelo Pangilinan, 5th Place

International Extemporaneous Speech

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st Place
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speech A

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 2nd Place
Ao Feng Louis Zheng, 2nd Place
James Alexander Keaton, 4th Place
Martin Angelo Pangilinan, 5th Place

Impromptu Speech B

Arvin Dayao, 1st Place
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 4th Place

Poetry Reading Masters A

Jonathan Woong Soo Lee, 2nd Place
Sumin Melody Woo, 3rd Place

Prose Reading Masters A

Sumin Melody Woo, 5th Place

NJSDA/NSDA Coach/Coordinator: Miss Grace Duran
Competition Registrar: Mrs. Esther Manzano

Judges: Mrs. Mirasol Dayao, Claude Aquino (PR)

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Barrigada Heights Mobil
Ysengsong Mobil Station

Guam Premier Outlets
Mangilao
Micronesia Mall
Naval Hospital

NEXCOM Bldg #258
Mangilao
Micronesia Mall
Tumon

SAIPAN LOCATIONS:
Gualo Rai
Chalan Piao
Paseo de Marianas, Garapan

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The federal government is back open, but is it really working for us?

With the partial shutdown of the federal government now temporarily resolved, we are left wondering if what has happened over the past several weeks comes even remotely close to providing the American people with the government they deserve.

The president—not exactly your traditional optimist—expressed doubt over the weekend that Congress will offer a deal on border security that he will accept. Meanwhile, Washington is going about looking for a more permanent resolution in a very traditional Washington way. An ad hoc committee—apparently this time a bipartisan gaggle of 17 members of the House and Senate—will work together to hammer out the details of a possible compromise. And here, we agree with Donald Trump, the process seems unlikely to stumble upon the magical ordering of details to resolve the governing stalemate that has descended upon the nation's capital.

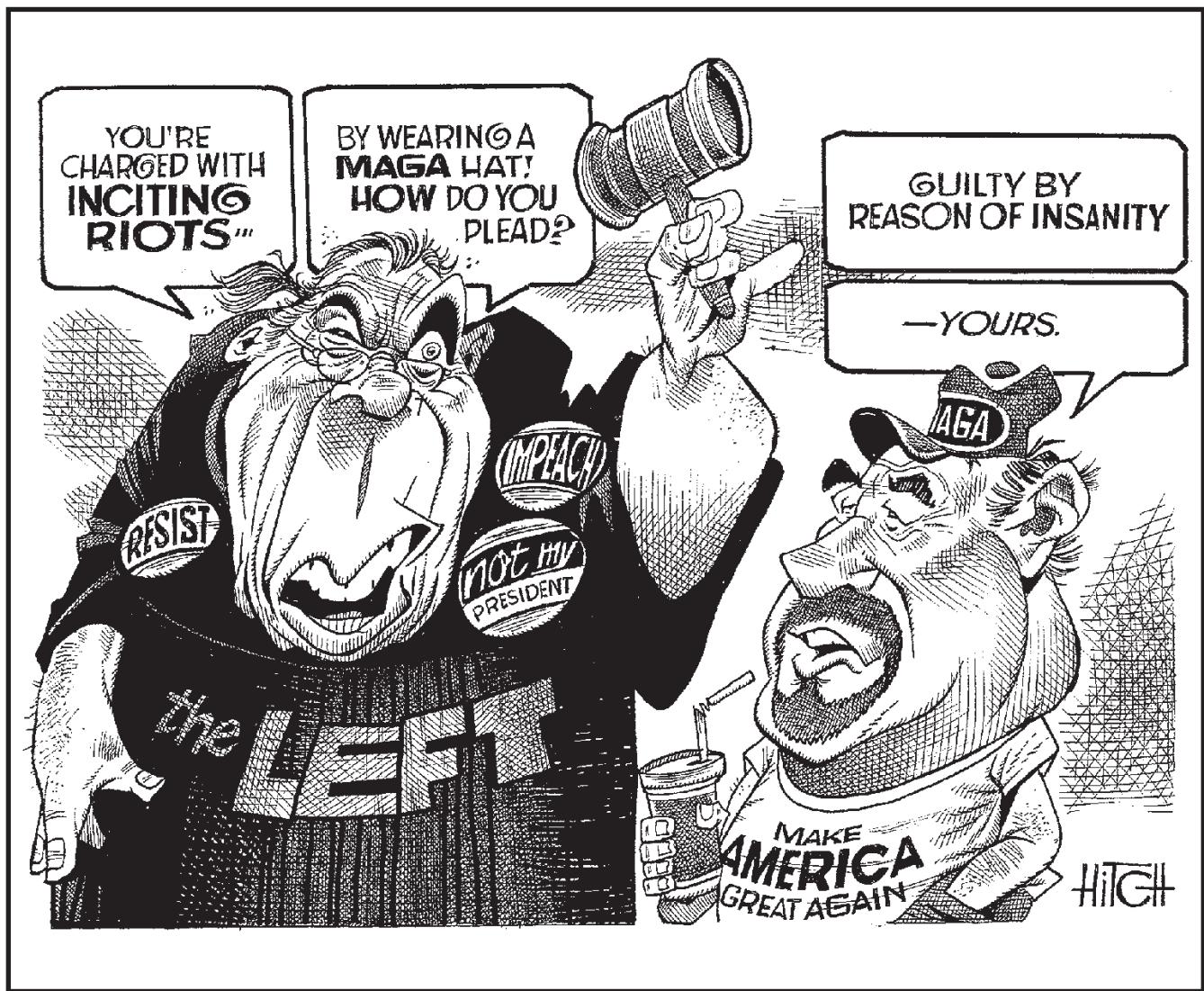
The truth is that even while federal workers across the country head back to work on a three-week reprieve before the next deadline, the government in Washington isn't functioning. At least it's not functional in any rational sense of that word. One example: According to the Congressional Budget Office, the shutdown cost the economy about \$3 billion. That's not exactly the difference between what Trump wanted for the border (\$5.7 billion) and what the opposition party had supported in the past (\$1.4 billion), but it's not that far off either.

We don't pretend to believe that there is ever a time when partisan politics don't consume good ideas, that petty political rivalries don't stymie some needed reforms, that our representative form of government doesn't at least partially represent our divisions as a society. But things are seriously broken in Washington when, two years into an administration, large numbers of senior positions are unfilled, when basic functions such as funding day-to-day operations of the government are beyond our lawmakers' abilities, and when at any given moment it is reasonable for us to fear that federal workers performing basic services, such as air traffic controllers, won't be fully staffed up.

Count us among those who believe the government is involved in many activities that it performs poorly or shouldn't perform at all. But we're also of the mind that government should be boring, not chaotic. Federal agencies need to be stable, competent and plainly routine.

And here is one nexus point where we believe the president is both making a miscalculation and doing us, the people living outside of the Beltway, a disservice. After the financial crisis and nearly a decade of slow if not stagnant economic growth, it was probably inevitable that the federal government would undergo a thorough shakeup. We'd argue a shakeup was well deserved. But in the end, the point of such a shakeup is to make the government more functional, more responsive to the needs of the citizenry and more respectful of the very people it seeks to govern.

See **FEDERAL** on next page



Maduro must go: Venezuelans deserve a functioning democracy

Last weekend, the Bank of England blocked Nicolas Maduro from withdrawing \$1.2 billion worth of gold from a Venezuelan state account.

That action followed the United Kingdom's decision to recognize Juan Guaidó as the interim president of Venezuela. Maduro will experience similar banking troubles elsewhere, as 52 countries—including the majority of nations in South America, North America and Europe—now recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's lawful leader.

That recognition matters. In the U.S. and all those other nations, Guaidó now has the ability to name diplomats and handle the country's financial affairs.

While things go south for Maduro abroad, his stock is also tanking back home. His socialist regime has pillaged and bled the country dry. He retained his presidency last year only by rigging the elections.

Now, anti-government protests are rocking dozens of cities in Venezuela, as millions of his countrymen demand his departure. The size, scale and magnitude of these demonstrations far exceed anything seen in Venezuela's 20 years of socialist misrule. Not every country is onboard with a democratic transition in Venezuela.

Cuba, Russia, China and Syria—as well as the Palestinian Authority and the terrorist organization Hezbollah—have strongly condemned calls for Maduro's resignation.

Still, the pressure is getting to Maduro's government. Over the weekend, his chief diplomats in Washington, Houston and Miami abandoned the sinking ship and pledged their loyalty to Guaidó.

Despite broad bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress for resolving Venezuela's crisis, certain members continue supporting the Maduro regime.

Leftist claims of Guaidó being a self-appointed puppet of the U.S. are inaccurate. His interim presidency is constitutional, a reflection of the people's will. Maduro's presidency has been neither for years.

Nor is it accurate to claim that U.S. policy aims to destroy the Venezuelan economy. U.S. sanctions are targeted specifically against regime officials for corruption, human rights abuses and narco trafficking.

The U.S. also forbids purchasing Venezuelan gold, a lucrative

By ANA QUINTANA

Tribune News Service

Specializing in Latin American issues, Ana Quintana is an analyst in The Heritage Foundation's Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies. Readers may write her at Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002-4999



industry for corrupt officials.

The recently announced oil sanctions take things a step further. The U.S. is now blocking Maduro from receiving all cash flow derived from Venezuela's state-owned oil company—Petróleos de Venezuela or PDVSA.

That income will be handed over to the government once the interim president assumes office.

Following U.S. recognition of Guaidó, Venezuelan government bank accounts in the U.S. were placed under Guaidó's control as well. He has established a government in exile and appointed a U.S. representative and ambassador to the Organization of American States.

As interim president, he is responsible for leading Venezuela through a transition and preparing for its first free and fair election in nearly two decades.

For the U.S., it is imperative that Maduro step down. He and his cronies have turned Venezuela into an international drug trafficking hub. The U.S. Treasury has designated high ranking officials like Maduro's former vice president, his attorney general and his secretary of homeland security as drug trafficking kingpins.

Accordingly, the U.S. has seized \$500 million in narcotics related assets from the vice president. And Maduro's own nephews are currently serving prison sentences in the U.S. for attempting to sell drugs to an undercover DEA agent.

While Venezuelans starve, Maduro's regime has enriched itself by trafficking drugs throughout Latin America and into the U.S., often colluding with violent cartels that have left a high body count in their trail.

The regime also openly supports regional and international

See **MADURO** on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Speakum' Globish?

During the course of a day you can easily hear a half-dozen languages spoken on Saipan, at least if you're circulating in the tourism industry. Despite the mix of languages and the fast-moving tempo of the tourism world, I have never encountered an insurmountable language problem in the CNMI. Of course, managing communications in such an environment does have challenges, especially if you have to generate polished marketing copy in foreign languages, but these problems are good ones to have. After all, it sure beats working in the salt mines.

On the linguistic front, a new book has hit the market. It's called *Babel: Around the World In Twenty Languages*. The author is Gaston Dorren, and the book (Atlantic Monthly Press, 320 pp. in hardback, \$25) will probably interest many people in Saipan's linguistically-diverse environment. I haven't yet gotten my hands on a copy, but the Australian "news.com.au" website ran an article about it on Jan. 29 ("Language expert says English global dominance could be threatened by technology.")

The article has some interesting information and ideas. For example, English is the world's most widely spoken language, with 1.5 billion speakers, compared to Mandarin at 1.3 billion speakers. However, one notion from Gaston Dorren is that technology might eventually allow people to translate languages and thus eliminate much of the incentive to learn a foreign language. This, so the thinking goes, would perhaps knock English from its ruling perch.

Another notion offered is that English has become so widespread that it could evolve into a more simplified version of Eng-

lish that Dorren dubs "Globish."

I took a look at some marketing copy for the book. Here's the first chunk of it:

"English is the world language, except that most of the world doesn't speak it—only one in five people does. Dorren calculates that to speak fluently with half of the world's 7.4 billion people in their mother tongues, you would need to know no fewer than twenty languages. He sets out to explore these top 20 world languages, which range from the familiar (French, Spanish) to the surprising (Malay, Javanese, Bengali)..."

The book strikes me as a traveling adventure combined with insights on linguistics. That's a combination that I can't refuse. I'll have more to say about that after I read it. In the meantime, if you have something to say about it I look forward to your email.

As far as "Globish" goes, I think we already see such a thing in Saipan, sort of a utilitarian English in business circles that allows a mix of nationalities to get things done. It's basic language that dispenses with grammatical flourishes. Come to think of it, that's how I speak anyway. Hey, better Globish than snobbish; ain't that so?

Of course, business isn't the only reason we use foreign languages. The polyglot realm is certainly spiced up by social interaction and also by the kissy-faced reality of Cupid's well-stamped passport. Saipan does not lack for examples. In fact, Saipan is just one continuously-rolling example. And in these realms, just as in business, I'd suggest that the most crucial component of communications is cooperation. I know of many

By ED STEPHENS JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

20- and 30-year marriages rooted in Saipan that demonstrate the point. Cupid's arrow penetrates linguistic barriers far better than a dictionary does. And, on that note, don't forget there are only 13 shopping days until Valentine's Day.

Although I've mentioned the statistic that English is currently the world's most widely spoken language, I am not invested in any pronouncements about what the future holds in this regard. I think that economics will be the key driver of that situation. I also think that economics and language are both very touchy subjects for many people, so I'm going to stay out of any arguments about that stuff. I'll just sit in my beach chair and mutter to myself as usual.

Anyway, Saipan has seen a number of languages rise and fall over the past few centuries along with the fortunes of a few empires. I think you'll agree that it's an interesting show. For one thing, it offers insights that most of the world doesn't have. And, for another thing, even on the bad days it's still a lot better than the salt mines.

Lazy days of spring

In the spring of 1993 we told the U.S. Congress no more grant funds confident we generate enough revenues to meet all our needs. It was a celebrated announcement no other territory has done. It coincided with Nippon investments peaking at that point in our development.

Unfortunately, investors subsequently decided to walk with their luggage to airplanes and headed home. We didn't see this coming though self-inflicted. Expansion of private industries fizzled as we quiz, as though ignorant, what happened?

Towering arrogance mouth-off against well-meaning major Nippon investors was uncalled for. Sad that it resulted in the combined colossal loss of more than \$14 billion! We ignored that good relations facilitate delivery of lifetime savings for investments here. It requires mature leadership with finesse. We rendered it sterling adolescence!

How could we brag about economic self-sufficiency when we don't manufacture anything at all worth selling at the global market? It's a case of intransigent arrogance gift-wrapped in ignorance. The result is woefully devastating: Nippon investors said, "sayonara".

Isn't the exit of Nippon investments a matter of life especially amidst a double whammy? Is there solid substitute for exiting investments beyond nervous hand wringing and looking intelligently confused? Humiliating!

Expansion of private industry is the holy grail of revenue generation. Without it we're stuck with what's left or would have been gone by the time we collect our old zories with tube inserts to move about. It compromises economic agility! It cuts heavily into current public services. Isn't one plus one two?

There's no such thing as a cradle to grave entitlement. You earn your dues from A-Z! Amidst the lull where are we headed? Perhaps there's a suspect plan somewhere that hasn't been pub-

licly shared for one reason or another? Am I being intolerant of the process or a bit simplistic?

Whatever the case may be the foundational issue is one of re-establishing and fostering good working relations with key Nippon investors. I welcome the strength of their investments in the islands. Please, don't bid us sayonara as yet.

■ ■ ■

Junkets: How grand the Internet that cuts trips for public officials in what's known as "frivolous junkets". At least Da Boysis have learned that we don't own a government-run airline and so they've stayed home.

In Washington, however, there's now "Air Pelosi" mocking the umpteen trips abroad by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to places like Afghanistan, among other venues. Talk about splurging on taxpayers' hard-earned contributions.

The *Washington Times* reported that in 2010 that Pelosi's jet travel cost the Air Force \$2,100,744.59 over a two-year period—\$101,429.14 of which was for in-flight expenses, including food and alcohol.

That is a lot of mullah just to avoid doing what she's supposed to be working on in DC. It is an ego trip that is completely irrelevant with her mandate!

Then she asserted that people who enter the country illegally doesn't mean they have broken the law. Excuse me! Isn't illegal entry a violation of law Ms. Pelosi? It's simple syntax!

■ ■ ■

Halo? We have 29 lawmakers on the hill and it piques my interest what do they have up their sleeves to make-up for the \$14 billion loss from the local economy. Additional taxes aren't the answer either to make up for the loss and not when 15,000 employees are stuck in the filthy swamp of poverty income!

If we don't hear anything solid to deal with this loss then it

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

confirms my view that we no longer need a bicameral legislative body that is literally dysfunctional at best, waste of taxpayers' money at worse. Weren't the basic functions of government established some 40 years ago?

■ ■ ■

Trade jobs: Some 50 years ago was started at then Hopwood Sr. High three program areas for students to take and explore: academic, commercial and vocational. If you're college material you stick to the first, someone who wants a job immediately after high school you opt for the second; the same goes to the third option.

And so trade skills development started years ago. Why then do we consistently find problems filling these jobs? There was the new upward mobility of our people facilitated by our becoming a permanent part of the U.S. in 1978. A lot of our young folks relocated to the US mainland where opportunities in education and jobs abound. To stay here would be a retarded choice.

Relocating in the interest of the education of their children is most admirable. No greater price than a good education for posterity!

MADURO

From Page 14

terrorist movements, like Colombia's deadly Revolutionary Armed Forces, National Liberation Army and Iran's equally murderous Hezbollah.

All three are designated as terrorist organizations by the U.S.

Latin American security and stability is good for Latin America and good for the U.S. For 20 years, Venezuela's socialist leaders have wreaked havoc in the hemisphere. The Trump administration is justified for mounting a pressure campaign against them. Venezuela and its people deserve an opportunity at freedom.

FEDERAL

From Page 14

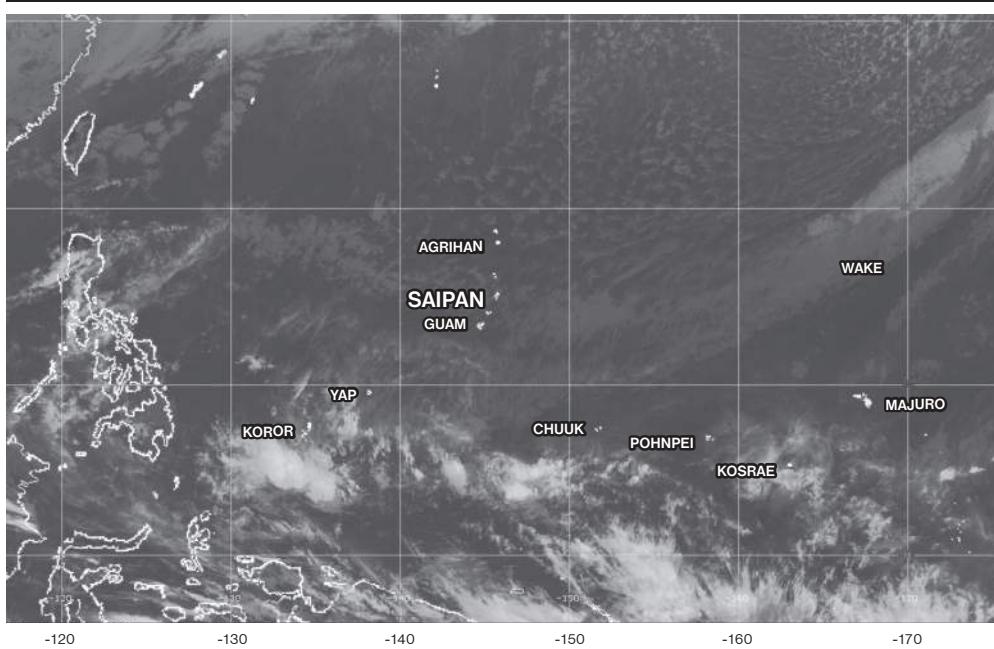
Nothing about this era indicates any of those things are happening. The president's miscalculation is that a coalition of voters large enough to enable him to govern will stick with him regardless of the amount of uncertainty, chaos or destruction he causes. Trump was handed a once-in-a-generation opportunity when he won the White House. All of his political capital rested on support for sweeping in real change. The catch was that the change had to meaningfully improve things. It's clear that the administration has forced a rethink on a lot of fronts, but it is equal-

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
88°	77°	87°	77°	87°
77°	87°	88°	77°	87°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows very few showers within the Marianas waters. Satellite shows copious cloud cover, so today and likely tonight should be rather cloudy, not much rain. The VAD wind profile indicates northeast winds of 16 to 24 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 9 to 11 feet, composed mainly of north swell from winter storms moving off Japan, with some east-northeast trade-wind waves and swell mixed in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83°	/	76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Showers	85°	/	79°
Kosrae	Showers	85°	/	79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	75°	/	64°
Beijing	Cloudy	43°	/	25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70°	/	64°
Honolulu	Showers	80°	/	69°
London	Mostly Cloudy	41°	/	34°
Los Angeles	Showers	63°	/	56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88°	/	73°
Melbourne	Sunny	93°	/	72°
Miami	Thunderstorms	75°	/	70°
New York	Cloudy	28°	/	18°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	50°	/	37°
Paris	Rain	45°	/	37°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	52°	/	45°
Rome	Showers	57°	/	55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60°	/	39°
San Francisco	Rain	55°	/	50°
Seoul	Cloudy	45°	/	34°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54°	/	36°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	33°	/	24°



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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z626	2:10am	6:00am	1	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
0Z626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
				0Z625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	0Z722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
0Z626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
				U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
				UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
				UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
				1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
				1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
				1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN							

KagES unveils new playground

The CNMI Office of the Governor, in collaboration with Lions Clubs International District 204-Region II, recently completed the assembly of Kagman Elementary School's new playground equipment.

According to Office of the Governor Community Relations coordinator Annamae Adaza, the effort is a week-long service project to assist KagES with their physical education objectives.

"We are very pleased to have the partnership and collaboration of the Lions Club and many other service groups in our community. We want to thank the CNMI Governor's Office staff Abraham Castro, Joel Pangelinan, and John Arceo with providing manpower to help the students of Kagman," Adaza said.

KagES principal Dr. Ignacia Demapan shared that the endeavor provides alternate

forms of physical exercise to the students and seeking manpower for the project was the next step after procuring the new assembly.

Office of the Governor Special Projects coordinator Roy Ada added that among other community projects that are ongoing, providing assistance to schools and villages when possible, are part of this year's priorities.

"Among the ongoing projects are the Saipan Belau Bai Project, San Vicente Park, and the Ma'afala Breadfruit Initiative in Kagman, but we are proactively pursuing community projects that can benefit our residents in the villages. This is in line with the governor and lieutenant governor's vision of revitalizing our schools and villages.

We also want to thank and recognize the various departments for their continuation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kagman Elementary School's new playground equipment has been recently completed.

ued assistance such as DPW, OGM, DPL, DLNR, DOC, NMHC, BECQ, and Mayor Apatang," Ada said.

"Through public-private partnerships, we're making sure that our recovery and development is felt in our villages by our children and parents alike. This is one of many projects to come," Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said.

"Students and parents are at the forefront of our village revitalization projects. Community buy-in is important, and we will continue to push out projects that are citizen-centric and beneficial for our kids," Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. (PR)

Search for '19 Miss Earth NMI to begin

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas will be given the opportunity to make its debut in the prestigious Miss Earth pageant as casting calls open up for the Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2019 pageant.

Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2019, which will be brought to the Marianas by Exquisite Productions Marianas LLC, is all set to conduct its first national casting call. This will be the first pageant of its kind in the Marianas region.

Local NMI beauties who believe that they have the ability to compete in the national Miss Earth Northern Marianas pageant can initiate the process by sending their applications before Feb. 14, 2019.

Interested candidates can email their applications to MissearchNorthernMarianas.670@yahoo.com. Candidates can also visit the Miss Earth Northern Marianas twitter and Instagram pages for more details.

The national Miss Earth Language commission Feb. meetings set

Northern Marianas pageant will be including candidates from across the Marianas in order to find the one who will venture out to represent the nation in the global Miss Earth pageant.

The winner of this national pageant will officially represent the nation in the grand event of Miss Earth 2019. Four crowns with elements Earth, Air, Fire, and Water would be at stake but only one candidate would be receiving the crown of Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2019.

All interested participants from Mariana Islands now have an opportunity to show their talent and gain more of exposure by competing in the national competition and create a mark in the pageantry with their charm and charisma.

The pageant finale will be held on June 22, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and the evening will conclude with the crowning of the lucky candidate who will become the official NMI representative to

Miss Earth 2019.

The national Miss Earth

Language commission Feb. meetings set

The Kumisiōn i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nā'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Tao-tao Tāno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its regular monthly meetings on Feb. 7 and 21, 2019, Thursday, 12:30pm-3pm at the former Guam Museum Building or the Garden House, Plaza de Espana in Hagåtña.

Agenda items include but are not limited to: approval

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MCS holds 1st Annual Mock Trial Invitational

By REICA RAMIREZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Last Jan. 26, Mount Carmel School held its first Mock Trial Invitational Competition. Marianas High School's Junior Varsity team competed twice against Mount Carmel School's JV Mock Trial team in two rounds presided over by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho.

Camacho enjoyed the idea of having invitational competitions outside of the regular annual competitions.

"This invitational is a great opportunity for students to experience mock trial without so much at stake. It allows the students to understand clearly the role of the court, the attorneys, and witnesses before going into the actual competition," Camacho said.



Marianas High School mock trial teacher coach Don Cohen (left) and Mount Carmel School president and teacher coach Galvin Deleon Guerrero pass out certificates of participation at Mount Carmel School's first annual Mock Trial Invitational.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/DPHS-007

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 13, 2019 **TIME:** 09:00AM
"SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION,
REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (SBIRT) IMPLEMENTATION
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/s/ PRISCILLA M. JAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

The U.S. Navy INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental EIS/OEIS Public Involvement Process

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area. The draft supplement to the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS supports ongoing and future activities conducted within the Study Area at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM).

Public Involvement

The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted at the public meetings, online at www.MITT-EIS.com, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Comments must be postmarked or received online by March 18, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Open House Public Meetings: 5 to 8 p.m.

Arrive and submit comments anytime during the open house. No presentation or formal oral comment session will be conducted.

GUAM
Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019
University of Guam
Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129 and Henry Sy Atrium
Mangilao, Guam 96923

SAIPAN
Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019
Kanoa Resort Saipan Seaside Hall
Beach Road in Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

The draft document is available online at www.MITT-EIS.com or at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyo Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Public Library.



Marianas High School and Mount Carmel School mock trial students and their coaches gather together for a group photo with Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho after Mount Carmel School's 1st Annual Mock Trial Invitational.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

cho said. "I've always been a big supporter of mock trial, and I am more than happy to help in, hopefully, more invitational competitions to come!"

The MHS students also had a great experience competing against MCS in a positive and fun environment.

Jarwyn, an MHS freshman, said, "[The invitational] was fun because it didn't feel like

a competition."

Another freshman, Vivien Liu, added that it wasn't a competition but "a chance to learn more about mock trial and apply what I've learned for future competitions."

Similar to what Camacho said, the students agreed that invitational competitions should be held more often to help students become



Superior Court Associate Joseph Camacho presided over the two rounds for Mount Carmel School's first annual Mock Trial Invitational.



Mount Carmel School student Fiona Bucalig (right) engages in an objection battle with Marianas High School student Vivien Liu at Mount Carmel School's first annual Mock Trial Invitational.

comfortable with mock trial competitions.

One member of the MHS team, Juliet Innocencio, stated that "the invitational competition today was very welcoming and it wasn't so stressful as it would have been in actual competitions. I think we should do more of these so that students like me can experience mock trial without so

much at stake."

Overall, both teams had a great experience to learn more about mock trial and apply the skills that they learned to improve. The invitational competition gave students a chance to have a friendly competition as well as welcoming other students into the mock trial world.

School president and teacher coach for MCS, Deleon Guerrero, said that the school is committed to holding the invitational again next school year.

"This was a great experience that emphasized the learning aspect of mock trial and promoted a growth mindset among our students, so we definitely will do this again."

The case used for the invitational was the 2018 CNMI mock trial case, *CNMI vs. Lou Perez*, which dealt with criminal charges filed against Perez, a legal proprietor of medical marijuana, who shot and injured an officer during a raid on his home. The school decided to use that case since many current mock trial competitors are familiar with the case because of their work on it last year. Also, the competition used the CNMI Mock Trial Competition Rules and the National High School Mock Trial Competition Federal Rules of Evidence.

MARK SCOGGINS SCOGGINS LAW OFFICE, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127 Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**IN THE) CIVIL ACTION
MATTER OF) NO. 19-0021
THE ESTATE OF) NOTICE OF HEARING
) AND NOTICE TO
ANGEL DELA CRUZ) CREDITORS
ATALIG,) DATE: Feb 28, 2019
TIME: 9:00 am
) JUDGE: Hon. Joseph
Deceased.) N. Camacho**

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEASED OR HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Angelica C. Atalig, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **February 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan**. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Deceased or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 24th day of January 2019.

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Governors of the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture, hereby give notice that a regular meeting of the Museum will be held on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 10:00am at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan, Saipan. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 664-2160 or send fax to 664-2170.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Election of Officers
- V. Executive Director Update
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

Danny Aquino
Executive Director

Ramirez wrote this article for Mount Carmel School's Introduction Media Communications Course.

TWA, Haya's spearhead Yutu relief on Tinian

As Super Typhoon Yutu's wrath was receding early morning Oct. 25, 2018, Haya Foundation-Man Yo'amte (healers) Foundation reached out to the Tinian Women's Association, Inc., who were already out assessing the critical needs of the most vulnerable citizens of Tinian.

Few words were uttered between TWA and Haya except the need for water, personal hygiene goods, nonperishable foods, other emergency relief supplies, and the love, prayers, and support that's on its way from sister island and people of Guahan.

Immediately after Yutu, as their motto states, "Making things happen," TWA made assessments of needs, created protocols and established registries of the most vulnerable population, i.e. children under 5 years old, elderly, sick and persons with disabilities, pregnant women in cooperation with the director of Tinian Senior Citizen, Evelyn Fleming David, and Headstart staff, Maggie Atalig Patio. Meanwhile, Deborah Fleming, a founding member of TWA and board of director, authorized TWA to use the old Fleming Restaurant for their distribution center and Haya founda-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tinian Elementary School students receive their school supplies a week after school opened.

tion was informing families, friends, and the Guam communities of the needed relief supplies and securing transport of goods to Tinian. In less than 24 hours, Haya was able to collect and arrange shipment with Sean Christian of Star Marianas Air for the first 2,000 lbs of water, nonperishable food supplies, and hygiene products at no cost to

Tinian. They arrived on Oct. 26 and thus "Project Osilio (help)" was launched and relief goods were issued or delivered to the first group of registered vulnerable

citizens of Tinian by late afternoon into nightfall using only headlights, flashlights, and lanterns. The next day, Haya chartered another flight to carry 2,272 lbs of

goods to Tinian.

TWA and Haya worked in perfect sync as Haya continued to collect and ship while TWA received, inventoried, issued, or delivered packages which included, but not limited to, basic items such as a case of water, nonperishable foods, paper products, toiletries, and hygiene products.

Haya Foundation was able to collect, purchase and ship a total of 105,889 lbs of goods as of Jan. 20, 2019 from the generosity of the people of Guam with the support of Matson's Pacific senior vice president of the Pacific Vic Angoco and Guam & Micronesia vice president Bernie Valencia, and Page Butler and staff of DGX for logistical support to palletize and load Matson containers.

TWA is also grateful to have delivered 3,168 lbs of donated goods from FEMA (c/o Debbie and Team Koka), Red Cross (c/o Arley Guitierrez-Long and Vivian Hofsneider), MarPac, Korsicana, Texas Community (c/o Carmen Taimanao), Dione Santos' son and friends, Felipe M. Mendiola, Jr., Kyle Munn, Ray & Brenda Iglesias children in Texas and Mr. & Mrs. Juan

Continued on Next Page



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PORT OF SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-19

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 11, 2019** at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, Port of Saipan, Project No. CPA-RFP-005-19". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 01, 2019** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at the CPA Seaport Conference Room located at the Port of Saipan on **January 25, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Ports Manager, Rodney James Taisacan to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras and systems are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"**

P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2019 First General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at Aqua Resort Club—Taga Room from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of February 13, 2019
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of FY 2018 SRC and SILC Joint Fourth General Membership Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2018 Reports
 - A. Statewide Independent Living Council Chairperson
 - B. Center for Living Independently Executive Director
 - C. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Election of SILC Fiscal Officer
- VII. New Business
 - A. Ratification and Adoption of Revised SILC Policies and Procedures
 - B. Review and Adoption of Revised SILC By-Laws
 - C. State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Implementation Report Update for FY 2019
 - D. Development of New 3-Year SPIL due June 30, 2019
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

/s/ **Gernadine Camacho**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).



Cecillie Tamundong Clem helps set the table after arriving with her roast turkey in garlic sauce.

N. Babauta.

TWA was able to deliver 109,057 lbs of donated relief goods to 631 households with a total population of 2,733. These included the tents and church materials from Guam mayor of Agat and church parishes delivered to Tinian San Jose Church, Father Ray Rizal, and school and dental

hygiene products for students shortly after school resumed in November.

Some items received were not distributed as they were single items or few and TWA was not able to identify who needed them most, but a generator was donated to one outpatient whose need was confirmed by medical profes-

sionals and another was used to power up a soup kitchen that was feeding the same target group and the military relief workers and one refrigerator was donated to Tinian Health Center to store vaccinations and other medicines needing refrigeration. The generator used at the Soup Kitchen has been returned to TWA and TWA intends to use it for its future events and functions. The rest of the items, and items received from CNMI Club, Hawaii, were raffled out free during Haya Foundation and TWA's Holiday and Appreciation Lunch held on Dec. 23, 2018, as they brought their "Project Osilio" to a close and give appreciation to those who have helped the Tinian community one way or another, but most especially those who left their families to help Tinian recover from Yutu's devastation.

"While Yutu devastated Tinian, it provided the opportunity to express love in



Relief crew and the community enjoy a meal together.

action thus strengthening the bond of Un Marianas with Un Kurason," said Zita Pangelinan, president of Haya Foundation. "Our indigenous values of *inaguaiya*, *inasa-maolek*, and *inayuda* continue to be demonstrated amongst our people. We are truly grateful to work with the incredible women of TWA who are as selfless as our traditional healers. Although, they have suffered great losses, they were more concerned about their people and worked tirelessly to serve as many as they could", added Pangelinan.

TWA and Haya Foundation also want to extend, on behalf of the people of Tinian, a profound appreciation and love to the donors and special thanks to the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School Mock Trial Team, National Honored Society, AmeriCorp, Frederick Ar- end DelaCruz, Eric Cruz San- Nicolas and daughter kaisa, Gherat Mony, Nikita P. Men- diola, Ervin C. Cruz, Vicente M. Cing, Jr., Chatto Cristoria and Domingo Penaranda, Mr and Mrs Juan M. Atalig, Frank B. Mendiola, Ernie U. Hof- schneider, Louie Kosrae, Gil- bert M. Borja, Joy Tiapong, Ami Dadulia, Revika Manuel and daughter Denise, Petra A. Cabrera, Jodeen C. Manglona, Kulio B. Cabrera, Mario and Brigitte Alo, M.A. Halam, Belal Hossain, Dullal Khan, Santo Miah, Rahmat Ullah, Ray Lazaro and family, Mel- vin Crisostimo and family, Gerry Crisostimo and family, Theodosia Sanchez and family, Luis Lizama and family, Cecillie Tamundong Clem, Steve & Faye Mendiola, John and Cindy Atao, William M. Cing and family, and Henry H. SanNicolas and family for their hours of volunteer work in off-loading, loading, inventories, packing, issuing/ deliveries, clean ups and cooking; Henry U. Hofschneider (4G+1 rental) for providing serving tables, Eric Reyes and Javie Decena for contribut- ing their sound system, Paul



School supplies in Docomo Pacific bags.



Basic school supplies and personal hygiene products for elementary students.



Basic Yutu relief care package with a case of bottled water.

Elder for donating the fresh beef for roasting and drying, Custom and Quarantine Officers Vincent Reyes, Jr., Sylvester Palacios, and Antonio Castro and his canine friend for their patience and help in clearing shipments, and Docomo Pacific for bags to pack school supplies.

TWA, in collaboration with the Tinian Senior Citizen Center, Tinian Elementary, Tinian High School, and

NMC-CREES, will now focus on teaching our children how to grow their own food and preserve them so that they can continue to be well nourished during and after disasters and searching out grants to help incorporate water tanks and solar panels into Tinian's infrastructure development so that people will not be over-burdened trying to collect water and live in darkness immediately following a disaster. (PR)



Vicente M. Cing and Sean Christian help with loading the first shipment received from Haya Foundation for Yutu relief.



Tinian Jr./Sr. student volunteers help in the Yutu relief distribution.



STUDENTS FIRST

2019 CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM STATE LEVEL SPELLING BEE

FEBRUARY 2, 2019 AT 9:00 AM
MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOLJames Thorson
4th GradeJoyce Hou
2nd GradeAna Villagomez
4th GradeApollo Sicad
5th GradeVangelyn Janese F. Serrano
4th GradeJillian Espelarga
3rd GradeCharles Baybay
5th GradeDaisylyn Camacho
3rd GradeJahren Tilipao
4th GradeDaija Sumor
5th GradeMiumi Takahashi
5th GradeJuris Gian G. Cabarles
4th GradePaulo R. Restavro, III
4th GradeKate Nicole A. Cabalbag
5th GradeHope Bonnie Mae Sagana
5th GradeAshley Kyle E. Cayabyab
6th GradeElicia Cabrera
8th GradeAngeline Faith S. Laxamana
8th GradeAndrielle P. Coloma
7th GradeDiego Luis Metra
6th GradeGlenda C. Valdezco
8th GradeIlaiza Ayala Camacho
8th GradePhilip A. Megino
6th GradeRabeya Akter
7th GradeLeirha Erich Manalo
8th GradeJaydoria Rolliana P. Cruz
6th GradeFor more information contact the
**Office of Curriculum &
Instruction** at (670) 322-3506.

Business

‘PG&E put profits over wildfire safety’

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A U.S. judge berated Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. on Wednesday, accusing the nation’s largest utility of enriching shareholders instead of clearing trees that can fall on its power lines and start fires and making “excuses” to avoid turning off electricity when fire risk is high.

Judge William Alsup in San Francisco did not immediately order PG&E to take any of the dramatic measures he has proposed to try to stop more wildfires.

But he warned that he was not ruling out at least some new requirements on the company if it did not come up with a plan to “solve” the problem of catastrophic wildfires in California.

“To my mind, there’s a very clear-cut pattern here: that PG&E is starting these fires,” Alsup said. “What do we do? Does the judge just turn a blind eye and say, ‘PG&E continue your business as usual. Kill more people by starting more fires.’”

Alsup is overseeing a criminal conviction against PG&E on pipeline safety charges stemming from a 2010 gas line explosion in the San Francisco Bay Area that killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes.

Polar blast envelops Midwest, strains aging infrastructure

CHICAGO (AP)—A blast of polar air enveloped much of the Midwest on Wednesday, cracking train rails, breaking water pipes and straining electrical systems with some of the lowest temperatures in a generation.

The deep freeze closed schools and businesses and canceled flights in the nation’s third-largest city, which was as cold as the Arctic. Heavily dressed repair crews hustled to keep utilities from failing.

Chicago dropped to a low of around minus 23 (minus 30 Celsius), slightly above the city’s lowest-ever reading of minus 27 (minus 32 Celsius) from January 1985. Milwaukee had similar conditions. Minneapolis recorded minus 27 (minus 32 Celsius). Sioux Falls, South Dakota, saw minus 25 (minus 31 Celsius).

Wind chills reportedly made it feel like minus 50 (minus 45 Celsius) or worse. Downtown Chicago streets were largely deserted after most offices told employees to stay home. Trains and buses operated with few passengers. The har-

He proposed earlier this month as part of PG&E’s probation that it remove or trim all trees that could fall onto its power lines in high-wind conditions and shut off power when fire is a risk regardless of the inconvenience to customers or loss of profit.

Alsup said his goal was to prevent PG&E equipment from causing any wildfires during the 2019 fire season.

PG&E shot back in a court filing last week that the judge’s proposals would endanger lives and could cost as much as \$150 billion to implement.

Kevin Orsini, an attorney for the company, said PG&E shared the judge’s concerns about wildfire and was working to reduce risk. But there weren’t enough qualified tree trimmers, and shutting off power would have “repercussions that affect the community,” he said.

Power cutoffs impact first responders, critical medical care and phone service and are potentially fatal, the utility said in its court filing.

“PG&E is facing a fundamental problem. The state is facing a fundamental problem,” Orsini said.

PG&E announced last year that it would cut off power

preemptively when fire danger was high and did so for the first time in October for about 60,000 customers in Northern California. The move prompted complaints and demands for reimbursement from some customers.

Attorneys for wildfire victims, California regulators and the U.S. Department of Justice also spoke at Wednesday’s hearing.

Alsup was also critical of the California Public Utilities Commission, accusing it of working slowly and using former PG&E employees. The judge later apologized for those comments but still questioned how so many fires broke out under the CPUC’s watch.

Later, CPUC President Michael Picker told lawmakers it would take between 15,000 and 20,000 new workers to “police” every utility pole and wire, adding “that’s just not going to work.”

Regulators are looking at deploying drones to monitor equipment, Picker said. At the Legislature’s direction, the CPUC is now requiring utilities to submit wildfire mitigation plans, and the CPUC wants to contract for about 100 new workers to help monitor utility safety.

Regulators are looking at

dlest commuters ventured out only after covering nearly every square inch of flesh against the extreme chill, which froze ice crystals on eyelashes and eyebrows in minutes.

The Postal Service took the

rare step of suspending mail delivery in many places, and in southeastern Minnesota, even the snowplows were idled by the weather.

The bitter cold was the result of a split in the polar vortex, a mass of cold air that normally stays bottled up in the Arctic. The split allowed the air to spill much farther south than usual. In fact, Chicago was colder than the Canadian village of Alert, one of the world’s most northerly inhabited places. Alert, which is 500 miles from the North Pole, reported a temperature that was a couple of degrees higher.

Officials in dozens of cities focused on protecting vulnerable people such as the homeless, seniors and those living in substandard housing.

At least eight deaths were

linked to the system, includ-

Nation

Deep freeze expected to ease But disruptions persist

CHICAGO (AP)—The painfully cold weather system that put much of the Midwest into a historic deep freeze was expected to ease Thursday, though temperatures could still tumble to record lows in some places before the region begins to thaw out.

Disruptions caused by the cold will persist, too, including power outages and canceled flights and trains. Crews in Detroit will need days to repair water mains that burst Wednesday, and other pipes can still burst in persistent subzero temperatures.

Before the worst of the cold begins to lift, the National Weather Service said Chicago could hit lows early Thursday that break the city’s record of minus 27 (minus 32 Celsius) set on Jan. 20, 1985. Some nearby isolated areas could see temperatures as low as minus 40 (minus 40 Celsius). That would break the Illinois record of minus 36 (minus 38 Celsius), set in Congerville on Jan. 5, 1999.

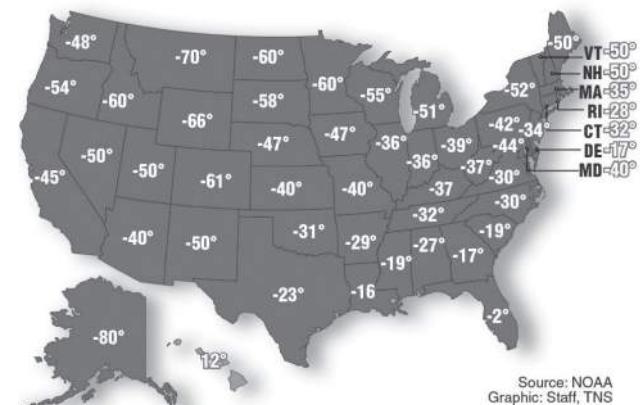
As temperatures bounce back into the single digits Thursday and into the comparative balmy 20s by Friday, more people were expected to return to work in the nation’s third-largest city, which resembled a ghost town after most of-

Chicago dropped to a low of around minus 23 (minus 30 Celsius), slightly above the city’s lowest-ever reading of minus 27 (minus 32 Celsius) from January 1985. Milwaukee had similar conditions. Minneapolis recorded minus 27 (minus 32 Celsius). Sioux Falls, South Dakota, saw minus 25 (minus 31 Celsius).

Wind chills reportedly made it feel like minus 50 (minus 45 Celsius) or worse. Downtown Chicago streets were largely deserted after most offices told employees to stay home. Trains and buses operated with few passengers. The har-

The coldest temperatures ever recorded

The continental U.S. has seen temperatures drop below zero in every state at some point in history. Even Florida dropped to 2 degrees below zero on Feb. 13, 1899, in Tallahassee.



The only state that has not seen a subzero temperature is Hawaii. The coldest temperature recorded in Hawaii is 12 degrees at the Mauna Kea Observatory, which is at an elevation of 13,796 feet, on May 17, 1979.

fices told employees to stay home.

The blast of polar air that enveloped much of the Midwest on Wednesday closed schools and businesses and strained infrastructure with some of the lowest temperatures in a generation. The deep freeze snapped rail lines, canceled hundreds of flights and strained utilities.

Chicago dropped to a low of around minus 23 (minus 30 Celsius), slightly above the city’s lowest-ever reading of minus 27 (minus 32 Celsius) from January 1985. Milwaukee had similar conditions. Minneapolis recorded minus 27 (minus 32 Celsius).

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Celsius). Sioux Falls, South Dakota, saw minus 25 (minus 31 Celsius).

Wind chills reportedly made it feel like minus 50 (minus 45 Celsius) or worse. Trains and buses in Chicago operated with few passengers. The hardest commuters ventured out only after covering nearly every square inch of flesh against the extreme chill, which froze ice crystals on eyelashes and eyebrows in minutes.

The Postal Service took the rare step of suspending mail delivery in many places, and in southeastern Minnesota, even the snowplows were idled by the weather.

ICE force-feeding detainees on hunger strike

Federal immigration officials are force-feeding six immigrants through plastic nasal tubes during a hunger strike that’s gone on for a month inside a Texas detention facility, The Associated Press has learned.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says 11 detainees at the El Paso Processing Center have been refusing food, some for more than 30 days. Detainees who reached the AP, along with a relative and an attorney representing hunger strikers, said nearly 30 detainees from India and Cuba have been refusing to eat, and some are now so weak they cannot stand up or talk.

Another four detainees are on hunger strikes in the agency’s Miami, Phoenix, San Diego and San Francisco areas of responsibility, said ICE spokeswoman Leticia Zamarripa on Wednesday.

The men say they stopped eating to protest verbal abuse and threats of deportation from guards. They are also upset

about lengthy lock ups while awaiting legal proceedings.

In mid-January, two weeks after they stopped eating, a federal judge authorized force-feeding of some El Paso detainees, Zamarripa said. She did not immediately address the detainees’ allegations of abuse but did say the El Paso Processing Center would follow the federal standards for care.

ICE officials say they closely monitor the food and water intake of detainees identified as being on a hunger strike to protect their health and safety.

The men with nasal tubes are having persistent nose bleeds, and are vomiting several times a day, said Amrit Singh, whose two nephews from the Indian state of Punjab have been on hunger strike for about a month.

“They are not well. Their bodies are really weak, they can’t talk and they have been hospitalized, back and

forth,” said Singh, from California. “They want to know why they are still in the jail and want to get their rights and wake up the government immigration system.”

Singh’s nephews are both seeking asylum. Court records show they pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge in September after illegally walking across the border near El Paso.

There have been high-profile hunger strikes around the country at immigration detention centers in the past, and non-consensual feeding and hydration has been authorized by judges in court orders. Media reports and government statements don’t indicate immigration detainees actually underwent involuntary feeding in recent years, opting to end their hunger strikes when faced with nasal intubation.

ICE did not immediately respond to queries about how often they are force-feeding detainees.

Asia

Xi's tough talk on Taiwan backfires

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping sought to push Taiwanese closer to unification with a new year speech mixing carrots and sticks.

That hasn't panned out. Instead, his independence-leaning Taiwanese counterpart, Tsai Ing-wen, has enjoyed a surge in support following a brutal drubbing of her political party in local elections last year, according to public opinion surveys and interviews.

The residents of this self-governing island, with its vibrant and well-established democracy, are as much inclined as ever to resist China's demands despite rising political, economic and military threats from Beijing.

Xi's offer to Taiwan "is a total scam," said Kuo Lin-han, 26, a Chinese Culture University student in Taipei.

Kuo was referring to China's proposal of a "one country, two systems" arrangement that Xi renewed in his Jan. 2 speech, under which Taiwan would accept Chinese sovereignty while being allowed to retain its own economic and legal systems.

That's based on the framework Hong Kong was granted when it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997, an arrangement that has become increasingly frayed as Beijing expands its political influence in the former British colony.

Jarringly for many Taiwanese, Xi mixed his outreach with a reminder that Beijing had no intention of dropping its threat to use military force to bring the island under its control.

Xi's speech was seized on by Tsai, who went on a four-day media blitz in Taipei that appears to have significantly bolstered her support among voters.

In a telephone survey pub-

lished Jan. 21 by the Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation, 34.5 percent of the 1,074 respondents gave her a thumbs-up, an increase of about 10 percentage points from after the November elections.

Two-thirds said they want Taiwan to continue its self-rule or declare formal independence.

Separately, the Taiwan government's Mainland Affairs Council found in a Jan. 17 survey of 1,078 people that 75.4 percent oppose "one country, two systems," » As Tsai 74.3 percent dispute the "one China" condition for formal dialogue and 77.2 percent

oppose China for holding pledges that it could use force against Taiwan if needed.

Both polls had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

"The most important thing is that Xi Jinping made the speech on Taiwan and Tsai Ing-wen gave a rare response, which received a high level of support," foundation chairman You Ying-lung said. "The China factor helps her come out of a trough."

Younger Taiwanese have a firm sense of local identity that stands in the way of China's idea for unification, said Wu Yi-hsuan, 27, an energy science and engineering doctoral student.

"We want to be Taiwanese Taiwan rather than Chinese Taiwan," Wu said, referring to the terminology Beijing often uses for the island that many consider condescending. "Regarding the fact that the People's Republic of China has never ruled Taiwan for a second, this (two systems) policy of China's is more an invasive, aggressive and offensive one."

China ruled Taiwan loosely



under the former Qing dynasty and the island was made a Japanese colony in 1895. Handed over to Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists at the end of World War II, it split again from the mainland in 1949 during the civil war with the Communist Party under Mao Zedong.

The Communists have regarded Taiwan since then as a breakaway territory that must eventually be brought into the fold. Many commentators say they believe Xi sees that as his historical mission, prompting major increases in China's military budget and renewed pressure on the island, including cutting off contacts with Tsai's government.

China's huge economy and global clout may have some effect, but most Taiwanese are unimpressed with how Beijing has followed through on its earlier pledges, said Andrew Yang, secretary-general of the think tank Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies.

"Hong Kong is totally controlled by mainland China," Yang said. "Even though they have their autonomy, they have limited freedom, and certainly there is no democracy in Hong Kong, as far as Taiwanese are concerned."

"I feel that the China government is unpredictable especially after Lee Ming-che was taken away by them," said Catta Chou, 30, a worker in a non-governmental organization, referring to a Taiwanese citizen sentenced in China in 2017 to five years in prison for spreading pro-democracy information.

"China is definitely crazy," Chou said.

tion activities, could face up to three months in prison. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha directed Asawin to order the closure of 437 schools after officials said the pollution would continue until next Monday. They said still air and heavy traffic are causing a buildup of particles in the air.

SKoreans mourn death of wartime sex slave who fought Tokyo

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean woman who was forced as a girl into a brothel and sexually enslaved by the Japanese military during World War II was mourned Wednesday by hundreds of protesters who

demanded reparations from Tokyo over wartime atrocities. Kim Bok-dong had been a vocal leader at the rallies that have been held every Wednesday in Seoul for nearly 30 years. She died on Monday at a Seoul hospital where she had been receiving treatment for cancer. She was 92. On a street near where the Japanese Embassy used to be, protesters gathered around a bronze statue of a girl representing Korean sexual slavery victims and held a moment of silence for Kim. Many of them held signs with Kim's photos and words including, "We will never forget the life of Kim Bok-dong" and "Japanese government, apologize!"

World

Venezuelans take to streets vs Maduro

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Doctors in scrubs, businessmen in suits and construction workers in jeans gathered on the streets of Venezuela's capital Wednesday, waving their nation's flag and demanding Nicolas Maduro step down from power in a walkout organized by the nation's reinvigorated opposition to ratchet up pressure on the embattled president.

Protesters said they were heeding the opposition's call for another mass demonstration despite the heavy-handed response by security forces over the last week to quell anti-government protests.

"I'm going out now more than ever," said Sobeia Gonzalez, 63. "We have a lot more faith that this government has very little time left."

The latest walkout comes one week exactly after opposition leader Juan Guaido proclaimed himself the nation's rightful president amid a sea of supporters, hurling the nation into a new chapter of political tumult as the anti-Maduro movement tries to establish a transitional government and the socialist leader clings to power.

"We are staying in the streets," Guaido told students at a surprise appearance at the Central University of Venezuela. "Not just in protest of the crisis we are living



A woman chants anti-government slogans in a walkout against President Nicolas Maduro, in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019. AP

in all of Venezuela, not just because of how bad things are, but also for the future."

The 35-year-lawmaker has transformed from a little-known opposition figure into a commanding force in the nation's politics with the backing of U.S. President Donald Trump and two dozen other nations recognizing him as Venezuela's interim president.

The turmoil has morphed into a larger geopolitical stand-off as Maduro accuses the U.S. of orchestrating a coup by backing Guaido and enacting punishing oil sanctions while powerful Venezuela allies China and Russia continue to stand by the president.

On Tuesday, the government-stacked Supreme Court barred Guaido from leaving the country and froze

his bank accounts as a probe into his anti-government activities led by Maduro-ally and chief prosecutor Tarek William Saab advances. U.S. national security adviser John Bolton warned that if Guaido is harmed Venezuela will face "serious consequences."

Guaido has thus far managed to avoid arrest and the Supreme Court did not strip him of his legislative immunity, though the new investigation could signal that Maduro's administration is moving to take a more punitive approach in the days ahead.

Speaking at the walkout, Guaido said he wasn't losing any sleep over the probe. "We don't want to leave the country," he said. "We want people to return."

Families dig to find loved ones in Brazil dam collapse

BRUMADINHO, Brazil (AP)—Under a scorching sun, Tereza Ferreira Nascimento on Wednesday dug through the mud with garden tools and her hands in search of her brother Paulo Giovane dos Santos, resigned to the reality that he was most likely dead six days after the collapse of a Brazilian dam holding back mine waste.

As search-and-recovery efforts continued, authorities also worked to slow the reddish-brown mud that was heading down a small river with high concentrations of iron oxide, threatening to contaminate a much larger waterway that provides drinking water to communities in five of the country's 26 states.

Friday's breach at the mine owned and operated by the Vale mining company led to a sea of mud that plastered several areas of the southeastern city of Brumadinho. To date, 99 people have been confirmed dead and 259 are missing.

"We have been here since Friday, taking turns between

brothers, brothers-in-law, searching for the body so that we can at least give him a dignified burial," said Nascimento, holding back tears. "So far it has been in vain."

Nascimento's sister-in-law, Sonia Monteiro, knelt down to smell the mud. Other smells, of dead animals, had thrown them off before, but this time they believed they were on the right track.

"We were sensing a smell here, more or less, so we are digging to see if we find him," said Nascimento, 41.

In the distance, helicopters could be heard and firefighters, wearing masks because of the strong smell of decomposing bodies, worked several areas. In theory, they were still in search for survivors, but no one had been rescued alive since Saturday, making chances for a miracle less with each passing moment.

Authorities said that in some cases they were struggling to identify the deceased, as bodies were badly bloated or in pieces. They

used dental records to identify those with no recognizable physical characteristics or usable fingerprints.

Vagner Diniz, 60, was holding on to some hope Wednesday that some of his five missing family members were still alive. His list of missing was staggering: his two adult children, Luiz and Camila; his daughter-in-law Fernanda, who was five months pregnant; and the biological parents of Luiz, who was adopted.

"This was a massive assassination," said Diniz, who lives in Australia with his wife and had come to his native Brazil on vacation. They had come to see their children, find out the sex of their expected grandchild and visit Inhotim, a world-renowned art museum about a 15-minute drive from Brumadinho.

"It was going to be a fantastic week," said Diniz, visibly exhausted from long days trying to get information on his family.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bangkok schools closed over air pollution concerns

BANGKOK (AP)—More than 400 schools in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, were shut for the rest of the week Wednesday due to increasing concern over dangerously unhealthy air pollution. Faced with public discontent as well as a possible health crisis, Police Gen.

Asawin Kwanmuang, the city's governor, also declared the city a "pollution control zone," allowing authorities to take legal measures to combat the threat, including road closings and diversions. Violators of orders to curb pollution, which could include limits on diesel exhaust, outdoor burning and construc-

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Taking tune from 'The Office,' man helps save woman's life

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A classic scene from a decade-old episode of "The Office" helped an Arizona mechanic save an unconscious woman's life. The Arizona Daily Star reports that 21-year-old Cross Scott found a woman locked in her car this month and broke in, finding she wasn't breathing. He doesn't have any emergency training but thought of the show where Steve Carell's character does CPR to the tune of the Bee Gees' song "Stayin' Alive." The song has the correct tempo for chest compressions. Within a minute, the woman was breathing, and she was taken to a hospital and later released. Scott, who shares the last name of Carell's character Michael Scott, had help from two women who also stopped when they saw the car and called 911.

Elephant seals take over California beach during shutdown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A colony of elephant seals took over a beach in Northern California during the government shutdown when there was no staff to discourage the animals from congregating in the popular tourist area, an official said. Now they're not going anywhere. About 60 adult seals that gave birth to 35 pups took over a beach in Point Reyes National Seashore, knocking down a fence and moving into the parking lot, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Wednesday. The park north of San Francisco is home to a colony of about 1,500 elephant seals that tend to frequent another beach with 100-foot-tall (30 meter) cliffs that keep the animals protected and mostly hidden from the public, said park spokesman John Dell'Osso. Dell'Osso said it's likely recent storms and high tides inundated the animal's normal habitat with water and so they sought a wider swath of dry land around the corner. "Sometimes you go out with tarps and you shake the tarps and it annoys them and they move the other direction," he said. But since nobody was at work to address the seal migration, the animals took over. One seal even ventured under a picnic table near a cafe, the newspaper reported. The elephant seals were lounging in the sand after the park reopened Sunday, leading staff to temporarily close

the road to the beach. Officials have no plans to move the animals while some of them nurse their pups. Staff is considering offering guided tours of the elephant colony, Dell'Osso said.

'It's too cold!' Mr. Hot Dog says no school in South Dakota

PARKER, S.D. (AP)—A South Dakota school district is using a talking hot dog to announce closures due to the extreme cold. In a video posted to the Parker School District's Facebook page, Mr. Hot Dog says: "I'm a hot dog! I need some heat! I'm not a cold dog! ... You cannot have school! It's too cold outside." Mr. Hot Dog—complete with eyes, teeth, a bun and mustard—says he spoke with Superintendent Donavan DeBoer and that school will be closed Wednesday. Mr. Hot Dog suggested students can instead watch Netflix or bake a cake, but "No Fortnite!" DeBoer told the Argus Leader that he created the video using Snapchat.

Police: Would-be bank robber gets cold feet, rips up note

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP)—Police in Massachusetts are looking for a woman they say intended to rob a bank but got cold feet and left without a penny. Fall River police tell the Herald News the woman walked into the Fall River Municipal Credit Union on Monday afternoon and approached a teller. Police say the woman hesitated, told the teller "give me a minute," and went to a counter and wrote on a piece of paper. But she ripped up the note, dropped the pieces in the trash and walked out. Bank employees pieced the note together and it said: "Give me the money." Anyone who recognizes the woman in surveillance images is asked to contact Fall River police.

911 dispatcher helps boy with his fractions homework

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP)—Police dispatchers are trained to deal with a number of situations, and a dispatcher in Indiana had to know her numbers when a boy called 911 seeking help with his homework. Lafayette Police dispatcher Antonia Bundy answered the call from the boy, who said he had "a bad day at school." It seemed the boy had "tons of homework" before the dispatcher narrowed down that he was

having trouble with fractions. An audio recording of the call posted on Twitter shows how the dispatcher helped the child solve the equation: three-fourths plus one-fourth. She had him take out a piece of paper to figure out the answer: one. The boy thanked the dispatcher and apologized for calling 911. Police say they don't recommend calling 911 for homework help.

Jail time for Florida man who jumped into crocodile exhibit

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP)—A man who jumped into a Florida zoo's crocodile enclosure has been sentenced to a year in jail. Court records show 23-year-old Brandon Keith Hatfield of Green Cove Springs pleaded no contest Friday to multiple charges, including trespassing and criminal mischief. St. Augustine police said Hatfield broke into the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park on Nov. 5. According to an arrest report, Hatfield caused over \$5,000 in damage at the 125-year-old attraction. Police said Hatfield jumped into the water in the zoo's Nile crocodile exhibit. Security video showed a crocodile biting Hatfield on the leg. He escaped, leaving blood and clothing behind him in the enclosure. Hatfield was arrested the following day after a resident reported seeing him crawling in his underwear across a neighboring yard.

Arkansas man pleads guilty to attempted plane theft charge

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP)—A 19-year-old Arkansas man has pleaded guilty to trying to steal a commercial plane so he could fly to Chicago to attend a rap concert. The Texarkana Gazette reports that Zemarcuis Scott of Texarkana pleaded guilty Thursday to attempted theft of property and commercial burglary, and was sentenced to five years of probation. Authorities have said Scott was found July 4 inside the cockpit of an American Eagle jet at Texarkana Regional Airport and that he had hoped to fly to an out-of-state concert. He has no training as a pilot. Police have said he told investigators he thought piloting the plane would involve little more than pushing buttons and pulling levers.

In December, he was found mentally competent to stand trial. Authorities say the 44-seat jet wasn't damaged.

Science & Technology

Apple busts Facebook for distributing data-sucking app



AP
This Feb. 19, 2014, file photo shows the Facebook app icon on an iPhone in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple says Facebook can no longer distribute an app that paid users, including teenagers, to extensively track their phone and web use.

In doing so, Apple closed off Facebook's efforts to sidestep Apple's app store and its tighter rules on privacy.

The tech blog TechCrunch reported late Tuesday that Facebook paid people about \$20 a month to install and use the Facebook Research app. While Facebook says this was done with permission, the company has a history of defining "permission" loosely and obscuring what data it collects.

"I don't think they make it very clear to users precisely what level of access they were granting when they gave permission," mobile app security researcher Will Strafach said Wednesday. "There is simply no way the users understood this."

He said Facebook's claim that users understood the scope of data collection was "muddying the waters."

Facebook says fewer than 5 percent of the app's users were teens and they had parental permission. Nonetheless, the revelation is yet another blemish on Facebook's track record on privacy and could invite further regulatory scrutiny.

And it comes less than a week after court documents revealed that Facebook allowed children to rack up huge bills on digital games and that it had rejected recommendations for addressing it for fear of hurting revenue growth.

For now, the app appears to be available for Android

phones, though not through Google's main app store. Google had no comment Wednesday.

Apple said Facebook was distributing Facebook Research through an internal-distribution mechanism meant for company employees, not outsiders. Apple has revoked that capability.

TechCrunch reported separately Wednesday that Google was using the same privileged access to Apple's mobile operating system for a market-research app, Screenwise Meter. Asked about it by The Associated Press, Google said it had disabled the app on Apple devices and apologized for its "mistake."

The company said Google had always been "upfront with users" about how it used data collected by the app, which offered users points that could be accrued for gift cards. In contrast to the Facebook Research app, Google said its Screenwise Meter app never asked users to let the company circumvent network encryption, meaning it is far less intrusive.

Facebook is still permitted to distribute apps through Apple's app store, though such apps are reviewed by Apple ahead of time. And Apple's move Wednesday restricts Facebook's ability to test those apps—including core apps such as Facebook and Instagram—before they are released through the app store.

Facebook previously pulled an app called Onavo Protect from Apple's app store because of its stricter requirements. But Strafach, who dismantled the Facebook Research app on TechCrunch's behalf, told the AP

that it was mostly Onavo repackaged and rebranded, as the two apps shared about 98 percent of their code.

As of Wednesday, a disclosure form on Betabound, one of the services that distributed Facebook Research, informed prospective users that by installing Facebook Research, they are letting Facebook collect a range of data. This includes information on apps users have installed, when they use them and what they do on them. Information is also collected on how other people interact with users and their content within those apps, according to the disclosure.

Betabound warned that Facebook may collect information even when an app or web browser uses encryption.

Strafach said emails, social media activities, private messages and just about anything else could be intercepted. He said the only data absolutely safe from snooping are from services, such as Signal and Apple's iMessages, that fully encrypt messages prior to transmission, a method known as end-to-end encryption.

Strafach, who is CEO of Guardian Mobile Firewall, said he was aghast to discover Facebook caught red-handed violating Apple's trust.

He said such traffic-capturing tools are only supposed to be for trusted partners to use internally. Instead, he said Facebook was scooping up all incoming and outgoing data traffic from unwitting members of the public—in an app geared toward teenagers.

"This is very flagrantly not allowed," Strafach said. "It's mind-blowing how defiant Facebook was acting."

Life & Style

James Ingram, Grammy-winning R&B singer, dead at 66

NEW YORK (AP)—James Ingram, the Grammy-winning singer who launched multiple hits on the R&B and pop charts and earned two Oscar nominations for his songwriting, has died, according to a close associate. He was 66.

Debbie Allen, an actress-choreographer and frequent collaborator with Ingram, announced

‘The Batman’ set for 2021 release, star to be determined

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Who will be inside the suit remains unknown but “The Batman” has a release date.

Warner Bros. on Wednesday announced that Matt Reeves’ stand-alone Batman film will hit theaters in June 2021. Ben Affleck was previously set to star in the film following his performances in “Justice League” and “Batman v. Superman,” but a new Caped Crusader is to be cast.

Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer team up for new show ‘Flack’

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer first got together professionally and personally on “True Blood.”

Now they’re working together again, except she’s the star and executive producer and he’s strictly an off-camera boss.

Paquin plays an expert publicity maven in “Flack” debuting Feb. 21. Moyer is an executive producer on the six-episode Pop series.

The couple, who married

his death on Twitter on Tuesday. Attempts by The Associated Press to confirm his death with Ingram’s family or representatives have been unsuccessful.

Ingram was born February 16, 1952 in Akron, Ohio.

He appeared on Quincy Jones’ 1981 album, “The Dude,” which earned him three Grammy nominations

and one win for best R&B male vocal performance for “One Hundred Ways.”

In a statement Tuesday, Jones called Ingram his “baby brother.”

“With that soulful, whisky sounding voice, James Ingram was simply magical ... every beautiful note that James sang pierced your essence and comfortably made itself at home,” Jones said. “But it was really no surprise because James was a beautiful human being, with a heart the size of the moon. James Ingram was, and always will be, beyond compare.”



This Nov. 19, 2014, file photo shows James Ingram at the 2014 Ebony Power 100 Gala in Los Angeles.

In 1983 Ingram released his debut album, “It’s Your Night,” which included the hit “Yah Mo Be There.” The song, which featured Michael McDonald, became a Top 20 hit on the Billboard pop charts and won the Grammy for best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocal.

Ingram also reached the top of the pop charts twice with the songs “I Don’t Have the Heart” and “Baby, Come to Me,” a duet with Patti Austin. “Somewhere Out There,” Ingram’s collaboration with Linda Ronstadt from the

1986 film “An American Tail,” reached No. 2 on the pop charts.

Ingram was also a talented songwriter: Alongside Jones, he co-wrote Michael Jackson’s “P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing),” earning him a Grammy nomination for best R&B song. Ingram scored Oscar nominations for best original song with “The Day I Fall In Love” from “Beethoven’s 2nd” and “Look What Love Has Done” from “Junior.”

Both tracks also competed for best original song at the Golden Globes.

Canada condemns Netflix for using rail disaster images

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—Canada’s Parliament passed a motion Wednesday saying Netflix should compensate the people of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, for using footage of the 2013 rail disaster in the post-apocalyptic survival film “Bird Box.”

The footage involved the disaster created when an unattended train carrying crude oil rolled down an incline, went off the tracks and exploded into a massive ball of fire, killing 47 people in the Quebec town.

The motion is non-binding but is a stern rebuke from Canada’s Parliament for the use of footage from the rail explosion in “Bird Box” and in the series “Travelers.”

Members of Parliament voted to demand that Netflix remove all images of the Lac-Mégantic tragedy. Netflix has apologized but has refused to remove the images. Netflix



This image released by Netflix shows Sandra Bullock in a scene from the film, “Bird Box.”

licensed the footage from the stock image vendor Pond 5.

Pierre Nantel, a legislator with the opposition New Democrat party who introduced the motion this week, said he cannot accept Netflix not removing the footage.

“We know people are going to go and watch this film, and again these real images will be used,” he said. “For people in Lac-Mégantic, they saw images of their own downtown burning, and could imagine their own family members in it.”

Netflix refused comment Wednesday, pointing only to a letter the company sent last week to Quebec’s culture minister in response to her concerns. In it, Netflix public policy director Corie Wright said the company “understands that many feel frustration and sadness at seeing images of this tragic event,” but it cannot make changes to “finished content.”

Wife resents being benched in favor of her brother-in-law

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 12 years. Things are generally good, but we keep having the same old argument related to his little brother.

They have a close relationship, which is great, but I often end up feeling like I’m playing second fiddle to my brother-in-law. If I ask my husband to go out and do something on the weekend, he’ll say he doesn’t feel like it. Minutes later, if his brother makes the same suggestion, he’s up and getting ready to go! Sometimes I end up along for the ride, which lessens the sting a little, but usually I’m left alone.

It wouldn’t be so bad if not for the fact that I don’t have family close by, and I’m the agency lead where I work, so having “work friends” isn’t an option. This leaves my husband the only person I have to spend time with.

I have tried explaining this to him, but when I try, he over-reacts and claims I don’t want him to spend any time with his brother, which is not what I’m saying. I have begun to feel that he’s honest with me when he says no to something, but just can’t bring himself to say no to his brother. Either way, it’s exhausting and ridiculous. Is there any way to address this, or do I just deal with the sting when it happens and let it go?

COMPETING FOR ATTENTION

DEAR COMPETING: If you and your husband haven’t

blocked out some time each week to spend together—a date night—you should. While I don’t think it’s healthy for you to be entirely dependent upon him for social contact, I do think you should be higher on his list of priorities than his brother.

Because you have already discussed this and seem to have gotten nowhere, please consider finding some other social outlets so you aren’t so isolated. Special interest groups or hobbies come to mind.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was waiting in line to get a cup of coffee and the customer behind me was so close she was almost touching me. Then she coughed without covering her mouth. I stepped away, but she closed in on me and coughed again without covering.

I turned and politely asked her to step back and cover her mouth the next time she coughed. She said she had an allergy and not a cold. I suggested that because we are in the midst of cold and flu season, there’s no way that I—or anyone else—could know the difference between a cough from allergy or illness. Was it rude on my part? Or should we all practice some courtesy by covering our mouths when we cough or sneeze?

RUDE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR RUDE: What you said was not rude; it was com-

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



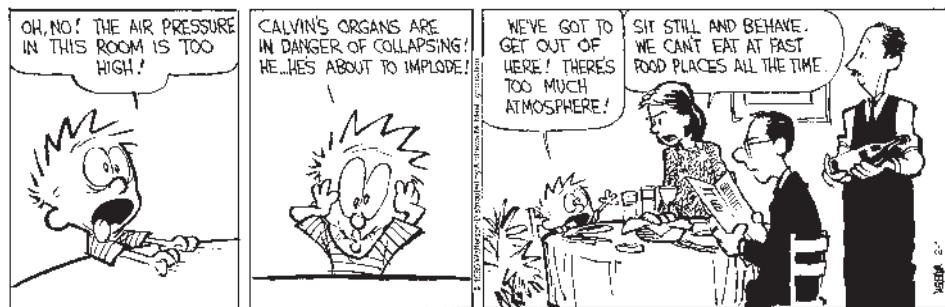
mon sense. The notion that if you don’t think you’re sick (“only allergic”), you have the right to cough on others is misguided. When you asked the woman not to hover near you, she should have respected your request, stepped back and not closed in again whether or not she continued to cough. Flu season is in full swing. That’s why it’s important for everyone who is out in public—and exposed—to practice good hygiene.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



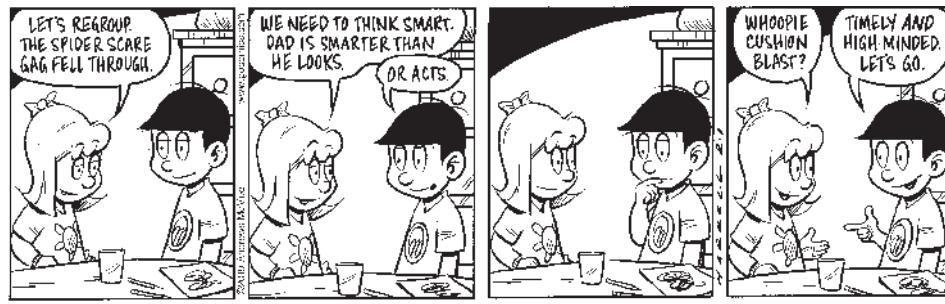
By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



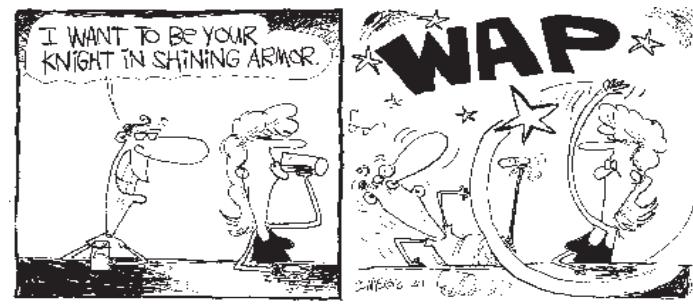
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Water-logged	2	Discoverer's call	22	Trademark symbols	
1	Parking place	40	Mideast airline	3	Ear membrane	23	One-named supermodel
4	Toy block name	41	Say it's so	4	Venue	25	Faucet problem
8	Narcissist's love	42	Rectangular game pieces	5	Satan's forte	26	Letter holder
12	Bashful	46	Painter Magritte	6	Lass	27	Ms. Brockovich
13	Cameo shape	47	Regarding	7	Flamenco cheer	28	Tabula —
14	Russian river	48	Shell-game item	8	Morose	30	Unique
15	Home	49	Initial chip	10	Hobbling	33	"Amen
17	Wheels of fortune?	50	Optimum	11	Broadway failure	to that!"	
18	One of the Fab Four	51	Stately	16	— Rock"	34	Actor Rickman
19	Doze		tree	19	Epidermis	36	"Adam Bede" author
20	Con games			20	Rosebud, to Kane	37	Poet Teasdale
22	Facebook action			21	Pisa farewell	38	Roasting spot
24	Director Wertmuller			22	Leary's drug	39	Bloke
25	Tyrannize			23	Leisure	40	911
29	Vichy water			24	Teasdale		
30	Church keyboard			25	responders		
31	Big D.C. lobby			42	Wee dollop		
32	Realm			43	Sugary suffix		
34	Hertz rival			44	Moray, for one		
35	Swiss peaks			45	America's uncle		
36	Justice Kagan						

Solution time: 25 mins.



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Harry Styles, 25; Ronda Rousey, 32; Big Boi, 44; Michael C. Hall, 48.

Happy Birthday: Check out what others are doing before you decide to get involved. Problems with institutions and government agencies should be dealt with directly and with transparency. Clear up matters that are pending and move on to the opportunities that are within reach. New beginnings are apparent, and you want to be free and clear to take advantage of what's offered. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 28, 33, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't rely on anyone but yourself if you want something done right. You'll be blamed if you aren't precise or you don't finish on time. Plan to relax with people you enjoy being around to help ease stress due to pressure and deadlines. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Live and learn. Observing how others react will help you detect who is offering you good information and who isn't. Choose quality over quantity if you want to come out on top. Know what you want, and go after it relentlessly. ★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): When opportunity knocks, open the door. Listen to what's offered and consider the source. A change will do you good, but it has to be for the right reason. Romance is on the rise and will improve your personal life. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be drawn to situations that are different. Your interest should not mislead you. Take a look, assess the situation and take com-

fort in what you have and the direction you are heading. Stability should take precedence over change. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look, see and follow through. Trust your instincts, experience and your ability to wheel and deal. Opportunities are present, along with partnerships that can change your direction and your life. A romantic gesture will improve your personal life. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and have some fun. You need a break from the pressure you are feeling at home and with important relationships. A timeout will help you put what's going on in your life back in perspective. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't fold under pressure. You've got more going for you than you realize, and an opportunity is within reach that can change your life. Now is not the time to procrastinate or to give someone the upper hand. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Say little and do a lot. Concentrate on being unique and creative and on developing your own style and way of doing things. An older friend or expert will help you see things differently. Take note and take over. ★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may crave change, but not everyone around you will be delighted with the decisions you make. Before you present your intentions, perfect your plans so you can offset complaints and criticism. Don't leave anything to chance. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be drawn to situations that are different. Your interest should not mislead you. Take a look, assess the situation and take com-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Know when to say no and when to walk away. Don't rely on others to do what you want or to have your back. Let your basic instincts be your guide; you will find a way to reach your destination. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep a close watch on what's going on behind the scenes. Protect against loss or giving someone access to personal information. Use your skills and intelligence to benefit you, not to help someone else prosper. Put yourself first. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): What you do to help others will in turn help you. Connect with someone you have worked with in the past. You'll be offered something worth checking out. Pay off a debt that stands between you and something you want. ★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are opportunistic, insightful and calculating. You are inventive and ambitious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4				3				
	5			1				
7	2			6			4	
				8			4	
5	7				2		1	
	9	3						
8	1			7			5	
	6	5						
3				8				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	4	7	5	3	2	9	6	8
3	9	6	4	1	8	2	5	7
2	5	8	9	7	6	4	3	1
7	6	5	3	2	9	1	8	4
8	1	2	7	4	5	6	9	3
4	3	9	8	6	1	5	7	2
9	8	3	1	5	4	7	2	6
6	7	4	2	9	3	8	1	5
5	2	1	6	8	7	3	4	9

Difficulty Level: ★★★★

51

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

*TIS THE SEASON FOR WARM HATS

Solution: 7 letters

N	L	A	F	C	S	P	A	L	F	R	A	E	W	P
S	O	V	E	C	H	A	P	K	A	D	W	C	R	L
R	G	I	L	C	L	U	N	O	E	Q	L	E	A	E
E	O	A	T	E	O	I	L	S	Q	O	L	E	E	S
V	S	T	V	C	T	L	I	L	C	L	L	G	S	
O	W	W	N	S	E	G	O	H	O	Y	I	F	D	A
C	H	R	W	I	N	T	E	R	T	K	C	M	A	T
S	O	P	A	C	K	C	O	S	R	H	C	E	O	
U	C	L	E	A	T	H	E	R	S	T	O	D	H	Q
B	H	P	D	S	S	C	A	L	P	S	O	U	O	U
Z	I	R	E	P	P	A	R	T	S	S	K	R	N	E
E	N	T	L	K	R	A	D</							

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(1) Diesel Engine Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
in Overhauling Diesel Engine
Contact Person: Leila Bais
Contact Number : 235-2567

Philpan International Inc.
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Need **(1) Sales Representative**
At least 3 years experience
in sales and marketing
Knowledgeable
in Peach Tree Invoicing
Contact Number 783-0367



Marianas Medical Center

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) Director of Operations

Our family medical clinic is seeking for a U.S. qualified experienced **Director of Operations** to join our dynamic team. The Director of Operations is responsible for planning, directing and evaluating medical activities within the clinic. The major component of this position is to deliver high-quality patient services by managing the efficiencies of employees to ensure that they are functioning productively.

We are looking for individuals that have a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration or relevant field; Master's degree in Healthcare Administration preferred with five (5) years of relevant experience, including two (2) years in a Supervisory role. Must have good communication skills, critical thinking skills and be proficient with Microsoft Office software.

All positions close 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 13, 2019.

Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and/or professional licenses claimed. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Testing may be required for this position. Marianas Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer.



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Classified Ads

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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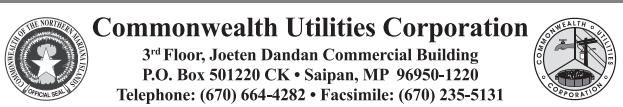
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Year / Make / Model	VIN
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2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR12D06PM01652
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16D96PM01790
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16D36PM02109
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR12D66PM02627
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16DX6PM02656



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes of December 19, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
 - E. Correspondence
- II. Public Comments*
- III. Management Reports
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 - B. Acting Chief Financial Officer's Report
- IV. Emergency Procurement and Temporary Alternative Power Supply - Rota
- V. Personnel Committee Report by Committee Chairperson
- VI. Telesource Contract
- VII. Executive Session*
(Discussions on sensitive personnel and administrative matters)
- VIII. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

Employment Opportunity

The NMI Board of Nursing seeks a Fulltime Office Clerk:

Essential competencies

1. Communications
2. Organizational skills
3. Computers: Data base management

Qualifications

- Must be 18 years old and above.
- High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in customer service.
- Must have strong administrative skills are required, as well as advanced computer skills including knowledge of MS word, Excel and power point.

Closing Date: February 8, 2019.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

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Towns hits desperation shot, lifts Wolves over Grizzlies



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Foul trouble forced Karl-Anthony Towns to watch much of the first three quarters from the bench.

Luckily for the Minnesota Timberwolves, the star center was available—and in the right spot—in overtime.

Towns hit a buzzer-beating desperation shot in overtime to lift Minnesota over the Memphis Grizzlies, 99-97 on Wednesday night. Memphis led twice during overtime, but Towns helped the Timberwolves close out their fourth win in a row.

On the final possession, Andrew Wiggins ran the clock down to six seconds before shooting a pull-up 3. The rebound fell to the right side, where Towns grabbed it, dribbled once and floated up a shot as he faded toward the corner. The ball went in, and Towns tossed up his hands before getting mobbed by teammates.

“The basketball gods weren’t treating me well, but I stuck with it,” Towns said. “I was saying, ‘All right, they owe me one. The gods owe me one and the next chance I get, I’m going to make it.’”

Towns scored all 16 of his points after halftime, and had 10 rebounds in his 26:27 of action.

Jerryd Bayless had 19 points and a career-high 12 assists for the Wolves on a frigid night with an announced crowd of 13,615. Many fewer actually showed up.

Mike Conley had 26 points and eight assists for Memphis, which lost for the 12th time in 13 road games. Marc Gasol had 19 points, and Ivan Rabb had 10 points and 10 rebounds off the bench.

“It’s a microcosm of our season, kind of like the ball bounces in a funny way and KAT’s in the right spot,” Conley said. “Not only is he in the right spot but he makes the shot. You know, tip-toes the sideline which is a heck of a play on his part. But we did everything we could to extend the game, to win the game.”

Memphis played its fourth straight game decided by one possession. It has lost three of those games.

“It’s tough, but we’re putting ourselves in position, giving ourselves a chance,” Grizzlies coach J.B. Bickerstaff said.

Celtics 126, Hornets 94

With Kyrie Irving again stuck to the sideline, Terry Rozier and his Celtics teammates enjoyed another run as the featured act.

The talented young cast stole the show again.

Rozier had 17 points and 10



assists, Jaylen Brown added 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Jayson Tatum scored 20 points to help Boston roll over the Charlotte Hornets despite Irving’s absence.

“When we play with him (Irving), it’s more like a show. Sit back and watch him go crazy,” Rozier said after starting in place of Irving, who missed his second straight game with a left hip strain.

“Without him, obviously we don’t know who the scoring’s (going to) really come from. Somebody got to step up.”

Rozier’s 10 assists tied a career high he set a year ago

Thursday against the Knicks. Marcus Morris scored 15 points, Al Horford had 14 and Gordon Hayward 12 for the Celtics, who won for the seventh time in eight games.

Boston won 10 of its 11 home games in January to keep within striking distance of Eastern Conference leaders Milwaukee and Toronto.

“Now we need to use whatever we gained from (this stretch) to go into February and play as well as we can

over the next fourteen days prior to the All-Star break and hopefully finish the season strong,” Celtics coach Brad Stevens said.

Nuggets 105, Pelicans 99

Nikola Jokic had a triple-double as the visiting Denver Nuggets defeated the short-handed New Orleans Pelicans.

Jokic had 20 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists, Malik Beasley added 22 points off the bench, Monte Morris scored 20 and Paul Millsap had 13 as the Nuggets won their fourth consecutive game.

The Pelicans played without five of their top six scorers for the second consecutive night. Anthony Davis, Julius Randle, Elfrid Payton, E’Twaun Moore and Nikola Mirotic were all sidelined by injury, leaving just guard Jrue Holiday available among New Orleans’ top six players.

Mavericks 114, Knicks 90

Dennis Smith Jr. finished with a triple-double, and Dirk

Nowitzki scored a season-high 14 points in his possible finale at Madison Square Garden as visiting Dallas pulled away for a win over New York.

The Mavericks have won three of four. The Knicks have lost 11 straight, 19 of 20 and 24 of 26. New York (10-40) has the worst record in the NBA.

Smith collected 13 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds. Harrison Barnes led all scorers with 19 points while Wesley Matthews added 17 points and rookie sensation Luka Doncic had 16 points and eight rebounds. Kevin Knox topped New York with 17 points.

Bulls 105, Heat 89

Bobby Portis scored a season-high 26 points to lead Chicago to a victory at Miami.

Wayne Selden finished with 20 points while Lauri Markkanen and Kris Dunn scored 14 points each for the Bulls, who snapped a four-game losing streak and won their second in the past 16. Robin Lopez was Chicago’s fifth double-figure scorer with 13 points, and Markkanen grabbed a game-

AP
Minnesota Timberwolves’ Karl-Anthony Towns dunks against the Memphis Grizzlies during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in Minneapolis. The Timberwolves won in overtime, 99-97.

high 13 rebounds.

Tyler Johnson scored 15 points for the Heat, whose two-game winning streak ended.

Wizards 107, Pacers 89

Bradley Beal scored 25 points, Jeff Green added 23, and Washington routed visiting Indiana.

Chasson Randle added 13 points for the Wizards, who had lost two straight. Jordan McRae and Trevor Ariza contributed 12 points apiece.

Thaddeus Young led six Pacers in double figures with 13 points. The 89 points were a season low for Indiana, which fell to 0-3 since losing Victor Oladipo to a season-ending quadriceps injury. The Pacers have dropped three games in a row for the first time this season.

Kings 135, Hawks 113

Marvin Bagley III scored nine of his 17 points in the second quarter, helping Sacramento roll past visiting Atlanta.

The win allowed the Kings

to sweep the two-game season series from the Hawks for the first time since 2006. Sacramento put up an opponents’ season high in a 146-115 romp at Atlanta in November. The Kings’ total Wednesday was the sixth-most points allowed by the Hawks this season.

Bagley, Harry Giles III (team-high 20 points), Bogdan Bogdanovic (16) and Yogi Ferrell (11) all scored in double figures off the bench for the Kings, who outscored the Hawks 80-49 in reserve points. Hawks rookie Trae Young won his individual duel with Kings point guard De’Aaron Fox, outscoring his rival 23-9 and out-assisting him 8-7.

Trail Blazers 132, Jazz 105

Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum combined for 66 points as Portland dismantled Utah for its eighth straight home victory.

Lillard collected 36 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, and McCollum scored 30 points for the Trail Blazers, who led by as many as 33 points.

Donovan Mitchell scored 22 points for Utah, which had won nine of its previous 10 outings. Rudy Gobert added 15 points and nine rebounds for the Jazz.

Column: Pelicans aren’t picking up phone for Davis trade calls

Well, here’s a weird wrinkle to the Anthony Davis trade request saga.

New Orleans Pelicans general manager Dell Demps is employing a negotiating tactic people didn’t see coming when Davis asked out. He’s “not picking up the phone,” according to ESPN.

Listen, it makes sense for the Pelicans to wait until the summer to trade Davis, because Demps will know exactly where the 2019 first-round picks he’s offered will fall and the Boston Celtics will be able to join the fray,

thanks to an odd wrinkle in the collective bargaining agreement that prevents them from pairing Davis and Kyrie Irving right now. In the meantime, New Orleans can tank their own pick.

By all accounts, the Pelicans are perfectly fine with letting the trade deadline pass with Davis still on the roster. And by their own account, they “will do this on our terms and our timeline.”

All that said, we can’t think of a great reason why Demps wouldn’t be picking up the phone right now.

Maybe he’s just so dis-

traught that the Pelicans are losing yet another franchise player under his watch. Still, you kind of still have to do the job. Even if the Pelicans plan to wait until the draft or free agency, it still behoves them to field offers now and get their ducks in order for the summer. What if there is an enticing offer now that won’t be there in July? You have to pick up the phone to find out.

Maybe his phone isn’t working. That’s always a possibility. Try turning it off and back on again.

Maybe he’s sleeping. You would be too if your other option was to wake up and trade Davis.

Or maybe the Pelicans disconnected Demps’ company phone, because they are planning to fire the GM whose series of missteps led Davis to lose faith in New Orleans’ ability to win consistently and would like his replacement to pull the trigger on a deal. If that’s the case, they might as well get it over with.

Because somebody should be picking up the phone in New Orleans.

Neymar out for about 10 weeks with foot injury

PARIS (AP)—Neymar is expected to be sidelined for about 10 weeks with a right foot injury, ruling the Paris Saint-Germain striker out of the Champions League matchup against Manchester United.

PSG travels to play United in the last 16 of the Champions League on Feb. 12, with the return leg in Paris on March 6. The injury potentially also rules him out both legs of the quarterfinals in mid-April if PSG advances.

However, if PSG reaches the semifinals, the 26-year-old Brazilian may be back in time for the first leg at the end of April and the return leg in the second week of May.

A group of medical experts met Tuesday at PSG's training ground to assess the damage to his fifth metatarsal and decided the best course of action was a "conservative treatment" and not an operation, PSG said Wednesday in a statement.

Neymar was in "total agreement" with the decision, PSG added.

Neymar was injured while playing against Strasbourg last Wednesday in the French Cup, rolling his ankle as he fell to the ground following a couple of challenges.

It is Neymar's third injury in the last 12 months.

In February, Neymar cracked the fifth metatarsal in his right foot, and he underwent surgery back home in Brazil. Although he recovered in time for the World Cup, he was not at his best in Russia.

Then, Neymar was substituted with a groin injury during the first half of Brazil's friendly against Cameroon on Nov. 20.

Neymar became the world's most expensive player when he



AP
Guingamp's Jordan Ikoko tries to block a shot from PSG's Neymar, left, during the League One soccer match at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

joined PSG from Barcelona for 222 million euros (\$254 million) in 2017. He has scored 20 goals in 23 games this season and 48 in 53 overall.

If his recovery goes well, Neymar should be able to play at the Copa America tournament, which opens on June 14 in Brazil. Neymar, who has made 96 international appearances, is third on Brazil's scoring list with 60 goals, behind only Ronaldo (62) and Pele (77).

Meanwhile, PSG chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi is set to join the UEFA executive committee, despite the French club being under financial investigation and the Qatari himself being embroiled in criminal proceedings.

Al-Khelaifi was elected Wednesday by the European Club Association board to be one of its two delegates on

UEFA's main policy-making panel. His position on the executive committee still has to be

ratified next week by the UEFA Congress in Rome, a decision that could test the organization's

conflict of interest regulations.

Al-Khelaifi is in charge of Doha-based beIN Sports,

Harper, Machado no closer to making decision



LOS ANGELES

—There was plenty of smoke surrounding Bryce Harper's free agency on Tuesday. But there's still no sign of fire.

In fact, both Harper and fellow elite free agent Manny Machado were no closer to signing a contract on Tuesday than they were on Nov. 1.

Speculation ran rampant after the video game franchise "MLB: The Show" teased a revelation on social media. The anticipation grew in the early morning hours after rumblings of a Harper union with the Philadelphia Phillies surfaced. Even the

Philadelphia police got in on the speculation with a spoof tweet.

Alas, there was no deal, or even any movement for that matter. While the Phillies can't be ruled out, neither can any of the other teams reportedly chasing the All-Star outfielder.

It means we're roughly two weeks away from spring training and it's now conceivable that Harper, Machado or both won't be under contract when those respective dates for all 30 teams arrive. Imagine someone even suggesting that was possible a year or two ago and the response it would get. They'd be called

crazy.

Both free agents and their representatives continue to exercise patience as they seek the best possible deal. Nothing has suggested either player will be willing to budge.

At the same time, the teams involved clearly aren't budging either. The lack of a resolution is definitely testing the patience of baseball fans, and quite honestly feels like it's hurting the usually palpable buzz that accompanies the calendar nearing February.

We've reached the state of baseball's free-agent freeze where Harper rolling into a Las Vegas casino during the winter meetings and an-

nouncing his free-agent destination in a grand spectacle seems like something that could only happen in a dream.

Many in baseball hoped for that sort of thing. Instead, we're going on two months of waiting while teams think about opening up their wallets for Harper and Machado.

This is also to say that we're eager for any slight clue about where they might sign that we're reading cryptic tweets and sleuthing out scenarios why they make sense. Such as this one from the "MLB The Show" Twitter account, which has us thinking that maybe a grand spectacle could happen after all.



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Chasing Brady: Donald to lead Rams' Super Bowl pursuit

ATLANTA (AP)—Practically every member of the Los Angeles Rams has a favorite story about Aaron Donald's feats of ridiculous athleticism.

Michael Brockers loved the moment at Carolina in 2016 when Donald beat the Panthers' left guard and launched himself like Superman, swallowing up Cam Newton while airborne.

Nickell Robey-Coleman preferred the game at San Francisco this season when Donald shredded a double-team and sacked C.J. Beathard—not by grabbing him, but by shoving the 49ers' center into his own quarterback.

"Aaron can do things you didn't know were possible," said Rams defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, no stranger to improbable feats himself.

Donald is the NFL's current sacks champion, the only unanimous All-Pro and a probable two-time league Defensive Player of the Year. But Los Angeles' powerful defensive tackle has one more daunting task in the Super Bowl.

Donald and the Rams must figure out how to pressure Tom Brady, who completely stumped the New England Patriots' first two playoff opponents.

The Chargers and Chiefs never sacked the 41-year-old superstar while he sat comfortably behind his stellar offensive line and picked apart their defenses for 691 yards passing, completing 71.1 percent of his throws.

Donald, who set an NFL record for sacks by an interior lineman with 20½ this season, believes Los Angeles (15-3) can do what the Chargers and Chiefs couldn't.

"We'll get to him, but we have to stay patient and don't get frustrated," Donald said. "We've got a great secondary that will do its job and make sure he doesn't have easy throws. If he has to hold onto the ball, we'll have our chances. We just have to go get him."

The Rams have been assembling the tools for this job all year long.



AP

In this Nov. 11, 2018, file photo, Los Angeles Rams defensive end Aaron Donald celebrates a fumble recovery and touchdown by defensive end Dante Fowler during the second half in an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, in Los Angeles.

other quarterback. He's going to try to avoid the pressure. It's our job as D-linemen to get to him, so we're putting the pressure on ourselves to try to influence him and try to get him off his spot."

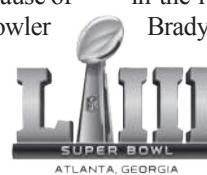
The Rams believe they have the players for the job, and they also might have the scheme.

Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips' 3-4 defense stopped Brady in the 2015 AFC title game. Phillips' Broncos—including Talib—hit Brady 17 times and made him miserable while going 27 of 56 in the Patriots' 20-18 loss.

Fowler has studied video of that game for years now. He would love to play the role of Von Miller, who got 2½ sacks and an interception.

Phillips isn't getting into any specifics of the Rams' plan against Brady, camouflaging his sharp mind behind his usual geniality.

"Unfortunately for me, I get older, but Tom Brady doesn't," the 71-year-old Phillips said. "You don't stop great offenses. You just try to slow them down."



In the spring, they signed the imposing Suh to a \$14 million deal. They also acquired Aqib Talib and Marcus Peters, two elite cornerbacks who can create chances for their pass rush.

They gave a six-year, \$135 million contract extension to Donald in late August, making their best player happy after two offseason holdouts. He responded with the best season of his stellar career.

Los Angeles then acquired edge rusher Dante Fowler from Jacksonville in late October, adding a speedy outside pass-rushing threat to a roster that lacked it. Fowler has 1½ sacks and six quarterback hits in the Rams' past four games—including the biggest hit of LA's season, forcing Drew Brees' overtime interception in the NFC championship game.

Fowler never became a su-

perstar with the Jaguars, but he loves being a role player for LA.

"I knew I was going to fit in with this defense because of A.D. and Suh," Fowler said. "They make it easy for everybody else on the defense. They cause so many problems."

Donald, Suh and Brockers are a formidable defensive line, and their teamwork has improved each month. Although Donald doesn't have a sack in the Rams' two postseason games, he draws double-teams that free up Suh, who has 1½ sacks and four quarterback hits in an outstanding postseason.

Even if Donald and Suh win their individual matchups on the line, Brady's quick decisions and swift release make him awfully difficult for anyone to touch. He was

sacked just 21 times in the regular season.

Although the Chiefs tied for the NFL lead with 52 sacks in the regular season, they hit

Brady just once and never sacked him in the AFC title game. A week earlier, the Chargers' dynamic pass-rushing duo

of Melvin Ingram and

Joey Bosa never got to him.

Even if the Rams can't sack Brady, they must attempt to get him moving before his receivers' routes develop. That's an area in which Donald specializes: Although he faces more double-teams than just about any defensive player, he consistently penetrates the opponents' backfield regardless.

"There's nothing he can't do in regards to disrupting a game," Rams coach Sean McVay said.

When Brady doesn't face

quick pressure, he is typically able to lacerate opposing defenses with short passes. Just ask the Chargers and Chiefs.

"That's crazy," Brockers said when told about Brady's sack-free postseason. "He's the G.O.A.T., but he's just an

CAROL

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"It will be another good experience for me to try and compete with these players and see what I need to improve on in my game to close the gap with the higher-ranked pro players," the 17-year-old said.

The top finisher in the zone's Group I will advance to

the playoffs that will be played in April, while the fourth placer will be relegated to Group II. The third-ranked squads in each pool after the round-robin preliminary will square off for the right to remain in Group I.

Pacific Oceania was promoted to Group I last season, marking the first time in 18 years that the region will be playing in the top division.

RESUME

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Also set for Feb. 23 is the pool play for the elementary coed 4x4 basketball tournament. The Top 2 teams will compete in the single-elimination playoffs on March 2 and Gross is hoping to utilize the Marianas High School Gymnasium for the basketball matches.

The high school (boys and girls) 3x3 basketball will have its pool play earlier—Feb. 16—and the championship round will take place on March 2.

The outrigger canoe races are also for high school students and will be held at Kilili Beach. The sprints events will take place on April 6 and 20, while the long distance race is scheduled for May 4. The dou-

MCS

From Page 32

Shawn Davis constantly reminded her frontliners to be consistent with their spikes and tips. This aggressive strategy proved to be too much to handle for the Lady Geckos, as their receivers frequently mishandled the bumps and passes.

"You're supposed to play safe, but you should always kind of think of it in an attacking position," Davis said. "We had an aggressive approach, but we still had to play it smart and safe."

Earlier in the first set, Princess Alcantara and Angela Jun got MCS into a strong start after excelling from the server's position, with the former racking up four consecutive serves and the latter slamming three uninterrupted over-handers.

Lady Knights captain Louisa Han led by example with her back-to-back serves at the 23-19 mark to seal the deal in the opening set.

With the victory, the Lady Knights set up a semis game against a much tougher Lady Geckos crew—SIS 1—and Davis is hoping to see the same aggressiveness from

her players.

"They need to do exactly what they did today—play it smart, and play aggressively," she said.

Meanwhile, in the tailend of the playoff doubleheader at the MCS court, the No. 5 seed Agape ended MCS Junior Varsity's playoff run after pulling off an upset over the No. 4 rank team, 25-12, 25-21.

Agape had only one win going into the playoffs and narrowly beat SIS 2 in the tie-break for the No. 5 spot, while MCS JV earned a 4-6 slate in the preliminary.

"The girls are so happy,"

Agape coach Ana Arellano said after stunning the Lady Knights. "They can't stop talking about it."

Next up for Agape is the heavily favored Grace Christian Academy—the No. 1 seed in the playoffs. The Lady Eagles will host the Lady Torchbearers in the semis match today at 3:30pm. The other semis game between SIS 1 and MCS Varsity will also take place at 3:30pm at the Lady Geckos court in As Lito.

In the boys division semis, GCA will play MCS today at the Eagles court in Navy Hill, while SIS will host Agape.

Will Rams spoil Brady's party?

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tom Brady will again attempt to get that unprecedented sixth Super Bowl win, while the Los Angeles Rams will try to deny the Patriots quarterback the historic feat just like what the Philadelphia Eagles did the last time.

The underdogs Rams and the favored Pats will collide on Monday for the coveted Vince Lombardi trophy and the season-long bragging rights with the former to ride on their young guns to pull off an upset over the experienced New England crew.

The highly-anticipated duel will be played at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia and will be watched by millions, including the opposing teams' supporters and critics in the CNMI.

Find out who are rooting for the Pats or rallying behind the Rams.

"Youth vs Experience? I'm going to go with the young LA Rams. The Patriots dynasty is going on a 17-year stint. Much respect to them, but change is good and inevitable. Going



with the underdogs. Happy Super Bowl Day CNMI!!!"

Vinnie Sablan, 21st CNMI Legislature senator



there, it is always nice to see the underdogs get it."

Catherine Attao-Toves, MCS basketball team coach



"Neither is my team because I'm Raiders Nation! But if I have to pick one, I'm going for the Rams because they are from the west side, the underdog, and I'm tired of Brady."

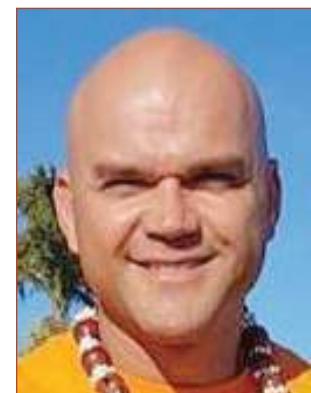
James Lee, MARPAC sales manager

"Rams. No logical reason, LOL. I grew up in SoCal so I have go with my home team. And some might say they are the underdogs...and by now you know I am always for the underdogs! I used to love watching football and partying in Super Bowl. But



in 1993, live sports didn't exist on Saipan. Three weeks delayed games were anticlimactic and I lost interest. But I still love sports. Now it's just in a more hands on way."

Laurie Peterka, Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president



"This Super Bowl is very tough to predict. Rams' team speed is better, but Patriots coach may be better and they have more Super Bowl experience. With that said, I go for the Rams in a close game, 26-24."

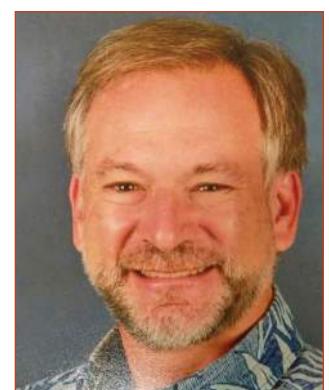
Kurt Barnes, CNMI Sports Hall of Famer

"I have to go with Tom Brady and the Patriots, again. He seems to still be in good shape and has been to the Super Bowl 8 times already thus is now able



to shrug off the pressure and focus on getting the ball to the guys in the right way."

Ed Arriola, Let's Go Tour manager



"Rams because they are wearing their throwback uniforms."

Ron Snyder, Saipan International School headmaster

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Key court rulings are expected soon in a lawsuit seeking a possible do-over of the NFC title game that ended with a Los Angeles Rams victory over the New Orleans Saints—a game affected by a crucial "no-call" by officials in the final minutes of regulation play.

The lawsuit by two Saints season ticket holders was filed in Louisiana state court two days after the Jan. 20 game in New Orleans. The NFL immediately filed to move the suit to federal courts. League lawyers on Wednesday filed briefs explaining why they believe the suit belongs there—and also asking that it be dismissed.

U.S. District Judge Susie Morgan has granted a motion for expedited handling of the longshot litigation. The Rams play the New England Patriots in Sunday's Super Bowl.

NFL lawyers say the federal court has jurisdiction because the suit amounts to a class action with millions of dollars potentially at stake and with defendants—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, the NFL and NFL Properties—living or headquartered in multiple states. They point to language in the suit that says it was filed "on behalf of the New Orleans Saints National fan base" as well as ticket holders, and note that one document accompanying the legal document filed with the suit refers to it as a "petition

Key rulings expected soon in NFC 'do-over' suit



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell answers a question during a news conference for the NFL Super Bowl 53 football game Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in Atlanta.

for a Writ of Mandamus and/or Class Action Damages."

Lawyers for the ticket holders say they never sought class action status, just a judge's order that the NFL follow its own rule—one giving the commissioner authority to investigate "extraordinarily unfair acts" that affect a game and order remedies that could include having the game replayed in part or from the time of the unfair act.

Earlier in the week, NFL lawyers said Goodell does not have the authority to overrule a referee on the field. Even if the rule did apply, the NFL attorneys argue, a decision on a remedy is up to the commissioner, not a ticket-holder.

Lots of questions for Goodell, not a lot of answers

Faced with a blitz of officiating questions and queries

about the effectiveness of the Rooney Rule, Colin Kaepernick's football unemployment, and the cancellation of a news conference for a Super Bowl halftime show that has drawn hefty criticism, Roger Goodell scrambled.

The NFL commissioner did provide some nuggets of news on Wednesday. He noted establishing a quarterbacks summit at Morehouse College in June to help get more minor-

ity coaches into the pipeline of higher-level assistant coaching jobs that are quicker pathways to head coaching opportunities. Otherwise, Goodell generally ducked the rush at his annual State of the NFL appearance as effectively as Russell Wilson.

Naturally, Goodell was peppered with questions, some bordering on demands, to upgrade the officiating 10 days after a non-call late in the NFC championship game pretty

much cost the Saints a spot in the Super Bowl.

While agreeing that game officials missed the helmet-to-helmet hit and pass interference penalty by Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman—league officiating chief Al Riveron called Saints coach Sean Payton after the game and admitted the blown call—Goodell said the league will re-examine the officiating process.

He didn't rule out adding such plays to the video review system, and he definitely didn't endorse such a move.

"We will look again at instant replay," said Goodell, who added that league executives recognize the frustration of Saints fans. "There have been a variety of proposals over the last—frankly 15 to 20 years—of should replay be expanded? It does not cover judgment calls. This was a judgment call."

"The other complication is that it was a no-call. And our coaches and clubs have been very resistant and there has not been support to date about having a replay official or somebody in New York throw a flag when there is no flag (thrown). They have not voted for that in the past. It doesn't mean that we won't. It's something that we're going to put to the competition committee to see if there's an answer to that, but the reality is that's been at least an opposition philosophically for many clubs."



Towns hits desperation shot, lifts Wolves over Grizzlies

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Chasing Brady:
Donald to lead
Rams' Super
Bowl pursuit**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Another tough test for Carol

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After qualifying for the 2019 Australian Open Juniors, the CNMI's Carol Lee will be up for another high-level competition next week.

She is now in Astana, Kazakhstan to suit up for the Pacific Oceania Team that will see action in the 2019 Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, Asia/Oceania Zone Group I from Feb. 6 to 9 at the National Tennis Centre. Joining Lee on the elite squad are Papua New

Guinea's Abigail Tere-Apisah and Violet Apisah, Samoa's Steffi Carruthers, and captain Gillen De Gouy of Tahiti. The group is in Pool B of the seven-team field and will be playing against the heavily favored China, Indonesia, and South Korea. Pool A has Kazakhstan, India, and Thailand.

Lee and company arrived in Kazakhstan last Wednesday, giving the squad about a week to acclimate and prepare for the tough battle ahead.

"We will train until next Wednesday when Fed Cup starts. It will be harder than Group II. There are more competing players out there and they have higher rankings," said Lee, who is thankful and

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Carol Lee returns a shot to South Korea's Sohyun Park during their first round game in the 2019 Australian Open Juniors late last month.

proud for the opportunity to play for the Pacific Oceania Team for the third straight year, Lee and her teammates will challenge several players who are in the Top 100 rankings of the

ITF Pro Circuit, including world No. 21 Wang Qiang of China. The top pick also has No. 39 Zheng Saisai and No. 40 Zhang Shuai on its roster, while South Korea will be led by No. 221 Han Na-Lae, who will be backed up by Jang Su Jeong, Jeong Sunam and Kim Na. Indonesia's lineup is composed of WTA competitors Beatrice Gumulya, Aldila Sutjiadi, Jessy Rompies, and Deria Nur Haliza.

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MCS, Agape reach semis

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School's varsity team and Agape Christian School advanced to the semifinals of the girls division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League after sweeping their respective opponents yesterday.

Interscholastic sports tournaments to resume

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

As promised, the Public School System Athletic Department will bring back interscholastic sports competitions after tournaments were suspended late last year due to Super Typhoon Yutu.

The 4x4 grass volley-

ball tournament for middle school boys and girls will kick off the series of sports events this season, according to PSS Athletic Department director Nick Gross. The contest will be held on two weekends with the first one scheduled for Feb. 9 and the participating teams play in a round-robin for-

mat. The Top 2 teams from each school will then advance to the playoffs set for Feb. 23 and will have a single-elimination format. Gross is proposing to have the Oleai Sports Complex Field as venue for the grass volleyball event.

See RESUME on Page 30



High school canoe races will be back this season, as the Public School System Athletic Department will resume its interscholastic sports competitions this month.

The Lady Knights were the first ones to earn a semis ticket, as they eliminated Saipan International School 2 at the former's home



turf, 25-19, 25-15.

After a close win in the first set, MCS Varsity starters fought through heightened wind conditions and exhibited

their versatility and exemplary teamwork to notch a much easier victory. Throughout the game, Lady Knights coach

See MCS on Page 30



Mt. Carmel School's Louisa Han hits the ball during their playoff game against Saipan International School 2 in the CCOPSA volleyball league yesterday at the MCS court in Chalan Kanoa.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN